

British Labour gains in municipal polls

LONDON (AP) — The Labour Party hailed its strong showing in municipal elections Friday as a national rejection of Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's right-wing third-term programme, including a shakeup of the welfare system. "There's a sea change in British politics — there's a direct rejection of what the Tories are doing," Labour leader Neil Kinnock declared, surrounded by jubilant party workers. Labour overtook the Conservative vote-share. But with the Tories tightening their hold in the prosperous south, the two major parties captured control of seven councils each where no party previously had overall control. "Very encouraging, very encouraging. We got many councils," Thatcher told reporters outside her 10 Downing St. office. The major loser was the centrist Social and Liberal Democratic Party, which lost support right and left to the two big parties as it paid for the internal feuding which followed Thatcher's third successive victory last June. With results declared from all 211 local authorities contested in Thursday's day-long ballot, Labour had notched up net gains of 104 seats.

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EEC condemns Israeli incursion

BONN (R) — The European Economic Community (EEC) condemned Friday Israel's latest armed drive into southern Lebanon and said Israel over-reacted to provocations. A statement, issued in Bonn in view of West Germany's current presidency of the 12-nation community, said "the 12 consider the Israeli military action in South Lebanon as a further violation of Lebanese sovereignty and territorial integrity. They believe that even the incursion of individual hostile groups — that also cannot be accepted — does not justify such a military action." The statement added: "The 12 regret the Israeli attack and are deeply moved over the related loss of human lives and destruction." The statement said peace and security could only be maintained by halting hostilities in the Lebanon-Israel border area and by implementing U.N. Security Resolution 425, which calls for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all Lebanese territory. "The international peace and international security must be restored by UNIFIL," it said, referring to the U.N. peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon.

Iraqi leader sends message to Fahd

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan left for Saudi Arabia Friday for talks on the Iran-Iraq war and the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories. The Iraqi News Agency said he would deliver a message to King Fahd from President Saddam Hussein on relations between the two countries. Iraq praised Saudi Arabia's decision April 26 to cut diplomatic ties with Iran and urged other countries to follow suit.

Turkey agrees to Iranian request

ANKARA (R) — Turkey has accepted an Iranian request to look after Iran's interests in Saudi Arabia following the break in diplomatic relations between Riyadh and Tehran, the Foreign Ministry said Friday. Turkey and Iran were awaiting approval from Saudi Arabia, which cut ties with Iran April 26, Foreign Ministry spokesman Inal Batu told Reuters. Iran's request was relayed to Ankara Thursday and Turkey said it would accept, pending Saudi approval, he said.

Glaspie in Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — April Glaspie, head of the U.S. State Department's section for Lebanon, Syria and Jordan, Friday briefed President Amin Gemayel on the outcome of her talks with European and Syrian officials on efforts to end the Lebanese crisis. Glaspie arrived from Damascus, her third stop on a tour which included the Vatican and Paris where she held talks with officials on ways to bring about political reforms to reconcile Lebanon's warring factions. She did not make any statements to the press after her one-hour talk with Gemayel.

Peres due in U.S. May 11

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres will meet President Ronald Reagan and hold three separate rounds of talks with Secretary of State George Shultz when he visits the United States this month, aides said Friday. Peres' meetings with Shultz are expected to deal primarily with the future of the U.S. diplomat's Middle East peace initiative which Peres backs but which is opposed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. Peres leaves Israel Sunday for a Socialist International gathering in Madrid, where he will also meet Spanish leaders, before flying to the U.S. May 11, returning here May 20.

British soldier killed in Cyprus accident

NICOSIA (R) — A British soldier was killed and 16 were injured during a live firing training exercise in Cyprus Friday, a British bases spokesman said. The spokesman told Reuters an 81-mm mortar was involved in what he described as an accident but gave no other details. "What happened is the subject of an investigation which has already started," he said. One soldier from the second battalion of the Coldstream Guards was killed and 16 were injured, two seriously, during the exercise at Akamas in western Cyprus, the spokesman said.

British travel agents discuss Jerusalem gathering with PLO

LONDON (AP) — The Association of British Travel Agents said Thursday it had discussions with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) about holding its annual convention in Jerusalem this fall. Convention manager Peter Hale had "a private, off-the-record, unofficial meeting with a PLO diplomatic representative in London," said an association spokesman. Asked whether the association received any assurances regarding the safety of delegates attending the six-day convention beginning Oct. 30, the spokesman said: "This was not an official meeting. There is nothing to report from it. No further meetings are planned."

Israel seeks to choke Palestinian businesses

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops Friday blocked all commerce in the occupied West Bank for a second day, shutting shops, closing gas stations, halting public transit and even chasing away street vendors.

Israel orders expulsion of Awad

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has ordered the expulsion of Palestinian-American activist Mubarak Awad in defiance of objections from the United States, Israel's closest ally.

An Israeli government statement Friday accused Awad of active involvement in the 21-week-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The United States has given Awad unprecedented public support, with Ambassador Thomas Pickering describing him as a moderate man and urging the Israelis to leave him alone.

Political sources said Pickering met Shamir Friday and it was likely that he used the opportunity to express American displeasure at Awad's arrest.

A U.S. embassy spokeswoman would neither confirm nor deny a protest by Pickering. Awad has been called "the Palestinian Gandhi" for his campaign of non-violent resistance to Israeli occupation. He was arrested overnight at his Arah Jerusalem home, his wife Nancy said.

Two lawyers defending Awad are petitioning the high court to prevent the expulsion. A group of nationalists has asked the same court to proceed with his immediate expulsion.

The government statement said Awad's activities "caused harm to the security of the state and to public order... he is one of the main contributors to the violent disturbances in (the West Bank) and Gaza."

In a statement issued by his lawyer, Awad said the Israeli government, in acting against him, was "being dragged behind the hysterics of certain Israeli extremists..."

The occupation authorities have been trying to force merchants to open and close on Israeli orders — not at the dictates of leaders of the 21-week-old uprising — and troops have threatened to weld shut shops that don't reopen Sunday.

In the occupied Gaza Strip, Israeli troops shot and wounded three Palestinian protesters in Gaza City, Shifa hospital officials said. One of the victims was a 12-year-old boy.

Also Friday, an American-born Jewish settler was arrested in connection with fatal shooting of a Palestinian shepherd and Israel Radio said police would recommend charging the settler with murder.

The settler fired on Judeh Abdullah Awad, 28, when he allegedly refused to move, his flock from fields adjacent to the

Shiloh settlement near Ramallah, reports said.

Awad died on the spot and his companion was wounded.

Settlers contended they opened fire in self-defence when the shepherds buried stones at Shiloh Guards, but Palestinian sources said the shooting was unprovoked.

Awad's death brought to at least 181 the number of Palestinians killed in the Palestinian uprising.

Israeli troops Thursday forced shops closed throughout the West Bank for three days. In Jericho, the army shut down the West Bank's largest vegetable market and stores were ordered shuttered in Nablus, Jenin, Tulkarem, Hebron and Bethlehem.

In Nablus, troops erected roadblocks and prevented Arab taxis and buses from leaving the city to punish residents for adhering to a general strike Wednesday that closed shops and stopped all public transport.

Businessman Saad Kanaan of Nablus said the army action was aimed at creating dissension between Palestinians and the underground leaders who order the

Jordan denounces Israel's desecration of holy places

UNITED NATIONS (Petra) — Jordan has condemned Israel's annexation of Arab Jerusalem and the imposition of Israeli laws on the Holy City as a flagrant aggression on the rights and feelings of Muslims and a contravention of international law, namely the Hague Charter of 1907 and the Geneva Convention of 1949.

Jordan's permanent representative to the United Nations, Abdullah Salah, said the U.N. General Assembly and Security Council had confirmed the illegality and invalidity of Israeli measures annexing occupied Jerusalem and changing its legal status.

In a letter he sent to the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and adopted as an official U.N. document, Salah refuted Israeli accusations and allegations that Jordan was desecrating Jewish tombs and holy places.

He charged that Israeli soldiers' entry to Haram Al Sharif and the Al Aqsa Mosque represented a flagrant desecration of holy places and a provocation of the feelings of Muslims. He pointed to Israel's total disregard

for Islamic and Christian authorities and cited as example the destruction of mosques and churches in the occupied territories.

Salah affirmed in his letter that Jewish religious places were considered sacred by Muslims based on the Islamic faith and teachings and that any desecration of Jewish or Christian holy places was also considered a desecration of Islamic holy places and an encroachment on its faith.

He pointed out that Israel's occupation in 1967 of the West Bank and Gaza, which include several Islamic and Christian holy places, and the Zionist state's annexation of Arab Jerusalem, home of Haram Al Sharif and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, had deprived millions of Christians and nearly one billion Muslims from visiting their holy places.

Salah referred to the recent storming of Al Aqsa Mosque by Israeli soldiers who fired gas canisters in the mosque while worshippers were still inside. He pointed out to an attack by Israeli police on Jerusalem Mufti Saadeddin Al Alami as another example of Israeli barbarism.

Friday prayers centre on historic Islamic battles

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein performed Friday prayers at Al Fayhaa Mosque in Amman.

The King, along with the worshippers listened to a sermon which centred on the Battle of Badr (between Muslims and Quraish tribes) and the conquest of Mecca and the lessons that should be learnt from these two historical events. The sermon also outlined the honourable stands of the Prophet Mohammad's companions during the battle and the conquest of Mecca and their call for Jihad.

The preacher who delivered the sermon praised Jordan's firm and supportive stands towards Arab citizens in their uprising in the occupied territories against Israeli occupation and arbitrary practices.

The preacher also bailed Jordan's support of Iraq in its just war against Iranian aggression



His Majesty King Hussein, along with His Royal Highness Prince Faisal and senior officials, attends Friday prayers at Al Fayhaa Mosque in Amman (Petra photo)

Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and a number of ministers and senior officials.

Commitment reaffirmed

The King, in remarks made at an iftar he hosted for dignitaries,

notables and officials in Mafrak Governorate Wednesday, said he, as a Hashemite, nor any member of his family would ever encroach upon a centuries-old document issued by a religious leader or compromise any link of

(Continued on page 5)

Queen opens Jordanian exhibition in Austria

VIENNA (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday inaugurated a major exhibition of Jordanian antiquities and historical art in the dramatic setting of 16th century Schallaburg Castle near Vienna.

Noting the impressive continuity in human sentiment and behaviour portrayed in many of the artifacts in the exhibition entitled "The Kings' Way: 9,000 Years of Art and Culture in Jordan," the Queen told the distinguished audience of officials, art enthusiasts and invited guests:

"Keep in mind, as we do, that these are not only inanimate objects from civilisations that died out centuries ago. They are, rather, silent yet enduring messages from our ancestors — reminders that in the eternal struggle between darkness and light, war and peace, and liberty and tyranny, victory has always gone to those who had the vision and

the fortitude to base their societies on principles of morality, equity and faith."

The exhibition of 400 pieces from Jordan is the finest collection of Jordanian antiquities ever assembled for international display. Tens of thousands of visitors have already seen the exhibition in Paris (1986) and Cologne (1987/1988) and it is scheduled to tour Japan and North America for the next several years. It is the second consecutive major display of Jordanian antiquities at Schallaburg Castle, which last year hosted the successful show of Byzantine mosaics from Jordan, which has been touring Europe for the past 18 months.

The Queen noted that Jordan and Austria had responded similarly to their different national challenges, opportunities and constraints. She said: "Our historical experiences and our commitment to morality in national action have seen both Austria and Jordan emerge in recent years as regional and international centres of meetings, dialogues and consultations... both firmly committed to the power of dyna-

mic moderation and to the centrality of the principles of justice, reconciliation and mercy."

In his remarks, Lower Austrian Parliament President Franz Romeider said that Her Majesty's visit to Schallaburg was a special occasion for the people of Lower Austria, as it was the first time a queen visits the castle in 750 years.

Lower Austria Governor Siegfried Ludwig also welcomed Her Majesty, adding that the ties between Jordan and Lower Austria were no less than 2,000 years old, for the archaeological park of Carnuntum, the capital of the ancient Roman province of Pannonia east of Vienna, contains the tomb of a Nabatean dating back to the first century A.D. In the tomb lies a man bearing the Latin name Proculus, meaning that he came from Philadelphia.

After the brief opening ceremony, the governor of Lower Austria accompanied the Queen on a tour of the exhibition, which includes a display of photos and posters entitled "Jordan Today." This display illustrates development in recent years, historical



HM Queen Noor

and archaeological sites to visit, and facilities available for tourists.

Soon after her arrival in Vienna Wednesday evening, the Queen attended a dinner hosted in her honour by Austrian President and Mrs. Kurt Waldheim.

The Queen was visiting Friday the Biedermeier and Vormärz exhibit depicting Viennese lifestyle and culture in the 18th century.

Khalaf praises Jordan's position

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Salah Khalaf, a senior member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Central Committee of the mainstream Fateh movement, has praised Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the Palestinian problem and described the Kingdom's position as clear and reassuring.

Kuwait's Al Anbaa daily quoted Khalaf as saying that the six-point memorandum which His Majesty King Hussein gave to U.S. Secretary George Shultz outlining the fundamental principles of Jordan's position on the Palestinian problem "gives comfort to all, particularly in relation to Palestinian representation and the right of the Palestinians to self-determination."

Khalaf added that the six points recognised that the PLO should take part in the international conference in an independent delegation or in whatever form it deems fit and referred to the right of the Palestinians to self-determination. "Our relations with Jordan are good and nothing new has taken place and meetings and consultations between the Palestinian and Jordanian sides are underway," Khalaf said.

"We don't have any reservations over open relations with Jordan," he added.

Khalaf said that a future Palestinian state, after its creation, would be linked to a confederation with Jordan. This was unanimously agreed upon at the Palestine National Council's meeting in Algeria, he noted.

Khalaf's remarks to Al Anbaa was carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat was quoted Friday as saying by the Beirut-based Al Nahar Arab and International Magazine as saying the Middle East peace mission of Shultz was aimed at crushing the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

Israelis leave behind devastation in Lebanon

MAIDOUN, Lebanon (Agencies) — Resistance fighters dug with their hands through the rubble of the devastated village of Maidoun Friday for comrades killed in a 48-hour thrust by Israel into southeast Lebanon.

Maidoun, perched on a hill surrounded by pine trees, and its 100 houses lay in ruins. Its streets, flooded by burst water tanks, were choked with piles of bricks, severed electricity cables, shrapnel, empty cartridges and shell casings.

Dozens of fighters, mainly from the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God), picked through the debris in search of fighters killed in battles with Israeli troops and Israel-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiamen.

An Israeli-SLA force captured Maidoun, eight kilometres outside an Israeli-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon, after a day of fighting with resistance forces Wednesday.

The SLA withdrew overnight, leaving school copy books and broken chairs scattered in the narrow streets. A Hizbollah official accused the SLA of looting the village.

Maidoun's houses were leveled by the shelling and by bulldozers used by the SLA to complete the job. Israel said Hizbollah used the village as a garrison after expelling the villagers.

Many marble gravestones in the cemetery were smashed in the bombardment while others were razed by bulldozers.

Israel said late Wednesday it had ended a 48-hour incursion into Lebanon in search of Palestinian and Lebanese resistance fighters.

In Israel, government sources said a row had erupted in the cabinet who authorised the army strike, which involved the destruction of Maidoun and the six-hour battle close to Syrian army lines.

Casualties

Israel said at least 40 resistance fighters and three Israeli soldiers were killed in the thrust to Maidoun, which followed increasing cross-border raids into Israel by commandos based in the area.

Hizbollah said at least 20 of its men and 35 Israelis were killed. The United Nations Security Council was to discuss a Friday formal Lebanese request to consider the Israeli incursion.

In the ruins of one house in Maidoun, Hizbollah militiamen dug with their bare hands for the body of a fighter buried under debris. They said three of their comrades were still missing.

Hizbollah buried 11 of its fighters Friday after about 3,000 people marched in a funeral procession through the nearby village of Mashghara.

"Death to Israel, death to America," chanted the crowd of Hizbollah fighters, clergymen, women and elderly villagers as the coffins were carried through Mashghara draped in Iranian flags.

Klibi urges U.N. condemnation

In Tunis, the head of the Arab League called on the U.N. Security Council to take firm measures to stop Israeli military strikes into Lebanon.

Secretary General Chadli Klibi said the 15-member Security Council had already debated a series of strikes into Lebanon by Israel, which invaded its northern neighbour in 1982.

"But this time we expect the international organisation not to confine itself to adding another decision to a list of others which have had no effect, but to take all energetic measures necessary to bring a definitive end to Israeli aggression against this country," Klibi said.

But he questioned whether the permanent members of the

Security Council, particularly the United States, would recognise the necessity for action.

The United States said Thursday it deplored the violence which followed the Israeli raid into South Lebanon, but it stopped short of criticising Israel for its actions.

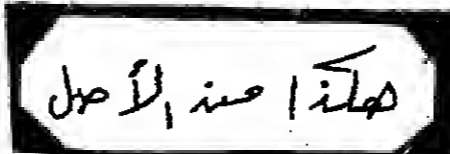
The State Department said the cross-border violence was a setback for regional stability.

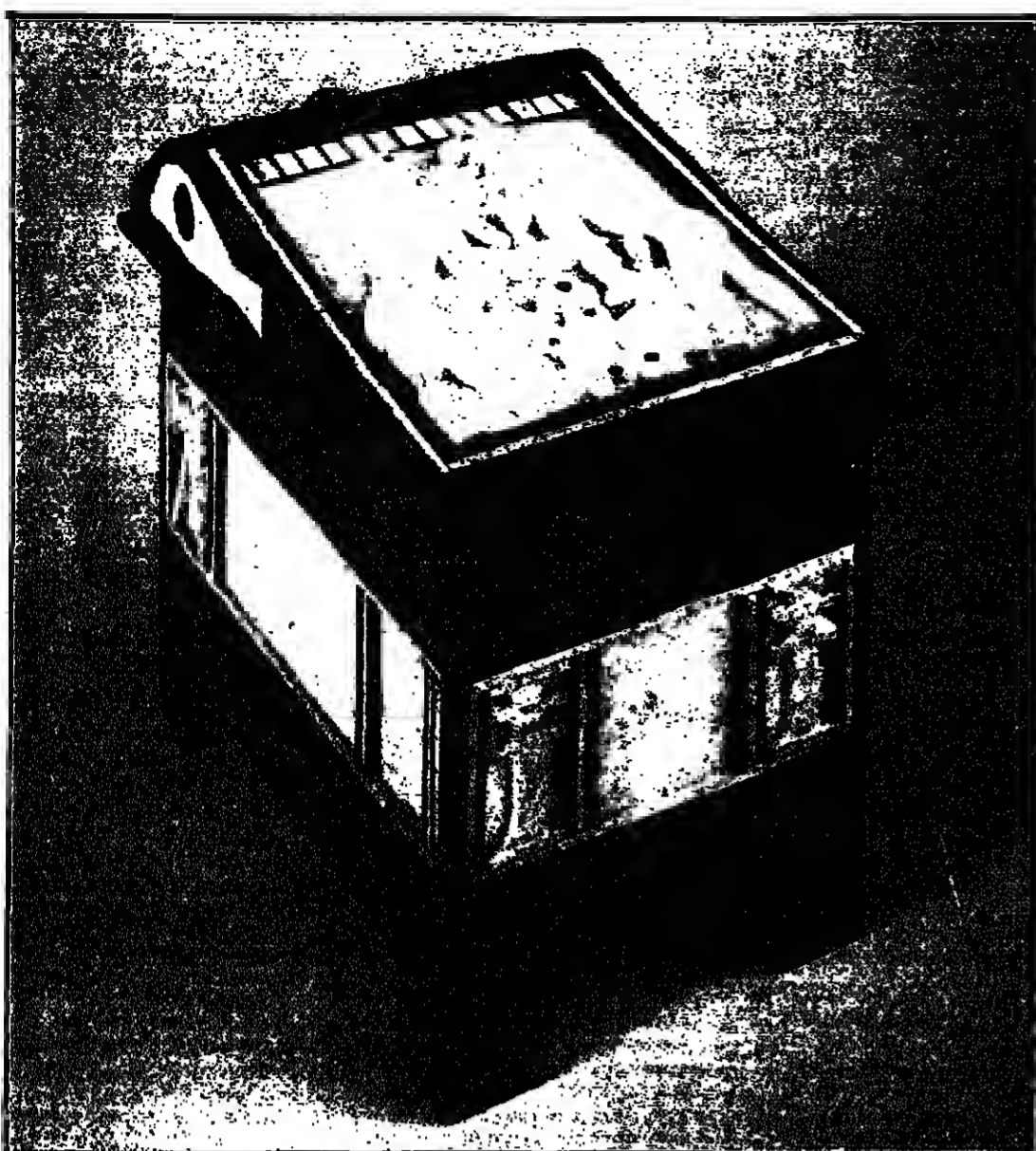
"This incident is the most recent in a long series involving cross-border violence," State Department spokesman Charles Redman said, referring to the Israeli incursion.

"These incidents, and the resulting deaths and damage inflicted over more than a decade upon the inhabitants of both southern Lebanon and northern Israel, are tragic and inevitably set back prospects for achieving security and stability in the area," Redman said.

Martens asked to form new government

BRUSSELS (AP) — King Baudouin Friday asked outgoing Prime Minister Wilfried Martens to form a new centre-left coalition government to help ease the nation's linguistic squabbles and economic problems. The next government's key task will be to implement constitutional reforms to make this nation of 5.3 million Dutch and 4.5 million French-speakers a federated state with more autonomy for its diverse regions. Other difficulties facing the nation include linguistic problems that have caused numerous political crises, and a jobless rate that is one of the highest in the European Economic Community. It was expected that Martens would head the five-party alliance, which is comprised of Christian Democrats and Socialists, each split into Dutch- and French-speaking camps, and the Flemish Nationalist Volksunie.





A carved ivory box excavated at Pella, dating from the Late Bronze Age, around 1500-1200 BC.

Queen Noor opens a Jordanian art and archaeology exhibition in Austria

Silent, enduring messages from our ancestors

The following remarks were delivered by Her Majesty Queen Noor on the occasion of the opening of "The Kings' Way: 9,000 years of art and culture in Jordan" exhibition on May 5, 1988, in Vienna, Austria:

I AM delighted to be here in this most impressive setting of Schallaburg Castle, whose artistic and architectural merit and historical associations make it a most appropriate venue for the exhibition of Jordanian antiquities we inaugurate here today. This exhibition, "The Kings' Way: 9,000 years of Art and Culture in Jordan," is the finest collection of our antiquities ever to tour outside the country. It is also a particularly enjoyable way for us to share an aspect of our common cultural heritage that is relevant both to the past and to the future.

Over the past nine millennia, humankind has made the extraordinary journey from small, isolated groups of nomadic hunter-gatherers to today's complex industrialised societies. The initial stages of that journey originated in the Middle East — a region which spawned and nurtured

many of the world's first agricultural and livestock villages, walled towns, organised city-states and empires, and which inspired the development of art, language, science, law and religion.

We see an impressive continuity of human development in the artifacts on display here today. Whether we examine the works of artists, the tools of farmers, the implements of industrial workers, the weapons of warriors, the utensils of homemakers or the ceremonial objects of organised cult or private worship, we are both startled, and humbled, by the consistency of human dynamics during the past 9,000 years.

For thousands of years, some efficient ceramic pot forms remained virtually unchanged, people modelled small clay statues or figurines to pay homage in their gods, artisans manufactured deli-

cate stone, wood, bone or metal instruments for use in industrial and commercial processes, and the joy and toil of the human condition were expressed in the many different art forms which people have developed since they first expressed feelings and emotions to one another, and to their Creator.

Such continuity is still part of our daily life in Jordan today, as many of you may appreciate should you have the opportunity to visit our country. The names of many of our cities, villages, mountains and rivers can be traced back thousands of years, to the early Islamic, Classical and biblical periods. Even our capital city — Amman — retains the name of the ancient Ammonite capital, Rabbat-Ammon, which flourished on the same spot in the Iron Age, 3,000 years ago. Our modern highways follow routes that were delineated through our land many thousands of years ago, based on principles of security, convenience and efficiency. The Kings' Highway, from Am-

man to Petra and Aqaba, may be the single oldest continuously used communication route in the world; mentioned in the Genesis accounts of the Bible, it has been used virtually without interruption for over 4,000 years as was the parallel desert highway to the east by travellers, traders, explorers, adventurers, camel caravans, armies, prophets, pharaohs, emperors and kings.

The tools, techniques and scale of human activity have changed dramatically since our ancestors first mastered fire, crafted stone and metal tools, domesticated animals, cultivated plants and recognised the social utility of sedentary, urban societies. Diesel trucks have replaced camels and horses. Microwave and satellite networks have replaced smoke and mirror signalling systems. Plastics have replaced ceramics. Concrete has replaced wood and mud-brick.

But fundamental human motivation — whether of individuals, families, societies or national communities — has remained remarkably consistent.

We have culled several basic truths from the long history of our land and people — facts which you will also recognise in your own historical experience:

— that peoples and nations wage a recurring battle between the forces of order and chaos, conquest and coexistence, creativity and stagnation;

— that societies are secure and bountiful when relations with neighbours are based on justice and respect;

— that creativity in culture and the arts flourishes when the human instinct for peace, liberty and equal opportunity is satisfied;

— and that destructive militarism and prejudice are unleashed when the aberrant forces of conquest and subjugation are allowed to manifest themselves.

When the land of Jordan was secure and well governed, and nature bountiful, communities grew steadily; agriculture and industry were productive; regional and international trade flourished; and cultural creativity blossomed. But, when war disrupted the daily patterns of community life and interrupted the flow of goods, of people and of ideas that travelled on the established international trade routes — or when harsh climatic conditions upset the delicate balance between ecology and economy, the communities of the land of Jordan contracted, dissipated and, in special cases, disappeared altogether.

Today, as in antiquity, the people of Jordan accept the reality that has relentlessly imposed itself on us: That genuine security and stability, and human satisfaction, stem from the application of justice, compassion and respect for the rights and aspirations of the individual; and that regional and international peace can only prevail when these same principles govern relations among states.

Austria and Jordan may be societies with distinct and very different political and social experiences, but in our essential endeavours — in the personal and public actions that truly matter — we have responded in similar ways to our different national challenges, opportuni-

ties and constraints.

We have both affirmed the vitality and creativity of our human talent. We have invested heavily in education and technical skills, and have sought a clear balance between the dictates of economic production and our people's needs for community and social services. Each in our own way, we have contributed to humankind's cumulative repository of art, music, philosophy, science and law. Our historical experiences and our commitment to morality in national action have seen both Austria and Jordan emerge in recent years as regional and international centres of meetings, dialogues and consultations. In our international dealings, we are both firmly committed to the power of dynamic moderation, and to the centrality of the principles of justice, reconciliation and mercy.

Our history and yours affirm that the art, knowledge, ethics and faith of each generation are passed on to the next generation, to be re-assessed and refined before being transmitted in following generations — in a long, continuous chain of human development.

We also appreciate a parallel lesson of history: That the indigenous development of distinct civilisations, such as in China, the Indus Valley, Mesopotamia, the Fertile Crescent, Egypt and Europe, is enriched and preserved by lateral linkages among them.

Some of the most creative and productive periods in the ancient history of Jordan occurred when we interacted with neighbours in the Near East, or with trading partners as far away as Europe, India or China. The Ammonite, Moabite, Edomite, Nabatean, Umayyad, Abbasid and Ayyubid/Mamluk civilisations represented periods of vigorous indigenous development in Jordan. An

essential component of them all was dynamic commercial, political and cultural exchange with other cultures. The result is displayed before us here today: Art, ingenuity and technology that were, in their time, among the most advanced in the world.

To be sure, international interaction was not always peaceful or benevolent. East and West often clashed during recurring episodes of economic control, territorial expansion and imperial conquest. Arab and Muslim armies reached the gates of Vienna and the banks of the Danube; European and Christian forces breached the gates of Jerusalem and the Jordan River.

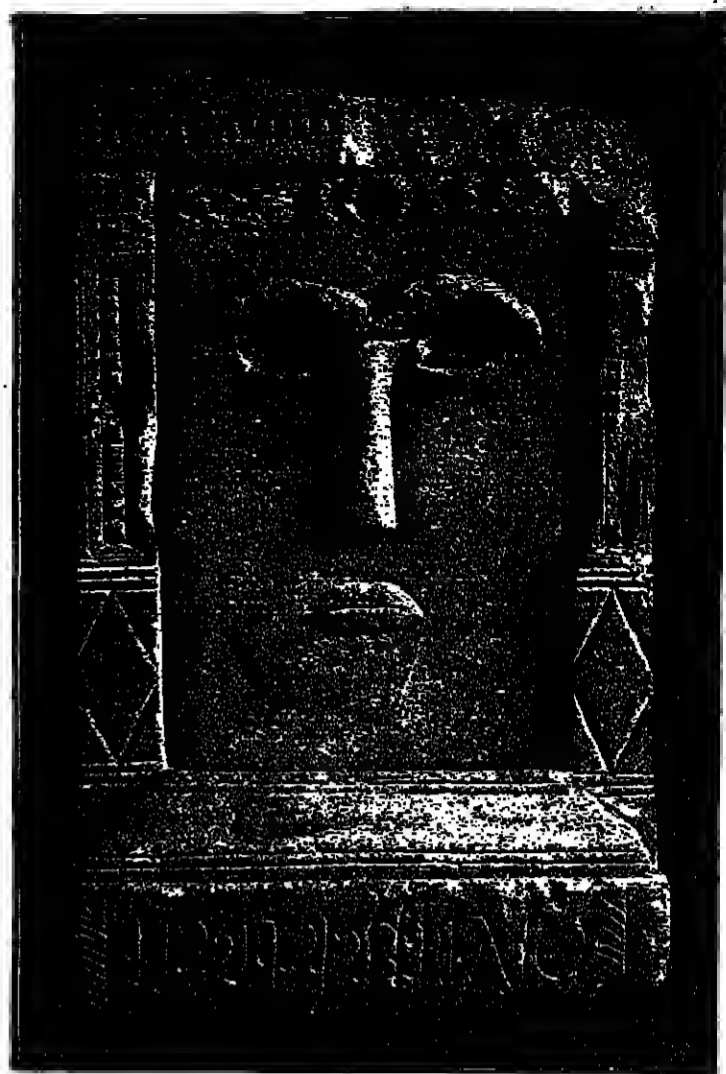
The residual lesson of such conflict and coexistence has been to reaffirm our common preference for cooperation and mutual respect.

— It is a lesson that Austria and Jordan seeks to apply today in the principles of their statehood, the use and allocation of their national resources, and the conduct of their diplomacy.

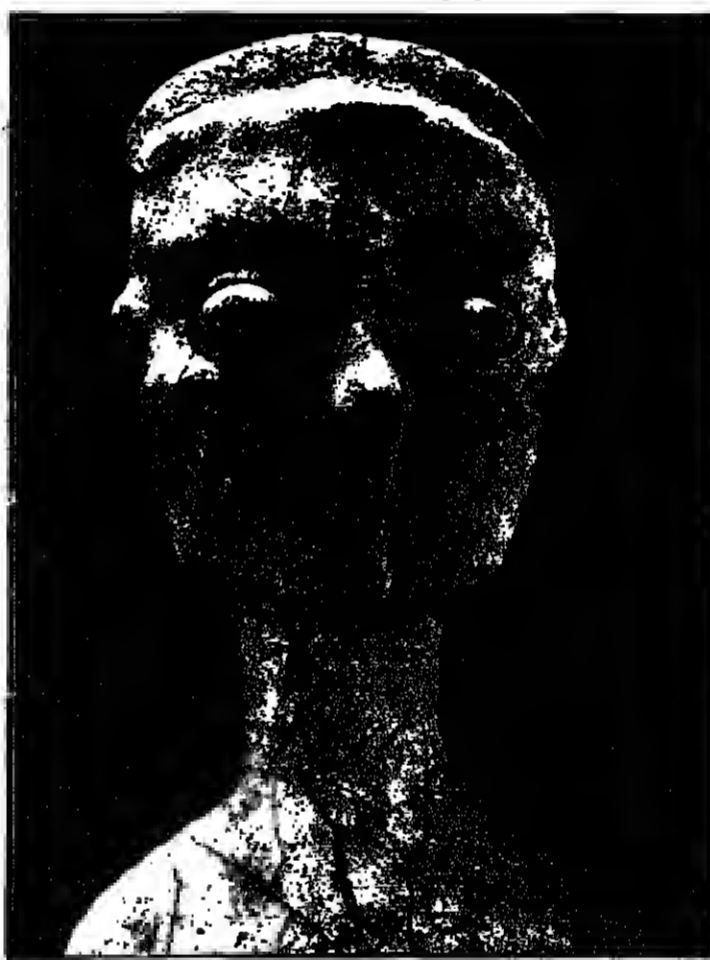
— It is a lesson that we both seek to honour in the conduct of our policymakers, to nurture in our children, and to pass on to our future generations.

— It is a lesson that we recall every time we examine the rich legacy of those who passed this way before us.

As you enjoy this exhibition of art and antiquities from the land of Jordan, keep in mind, as we do, that those are not only inanimate objects from civilisations that died out centuries ago. They are, rather, silent yet enduring messages from our ancestors — reminders that in the eternal struggle between darkness and light, war and peace, and liberty and tyranny, victory has always gone to those who had the vision and the fortitude to base their societies on principles of morality, equity and faith.



An anthropomorphic god block excavated at Petra, with a Nabatean inscription. The representation is thought to be of the Nabatean goddess Al 'Uzza, and dates from the early 1st Century AD.



A human bust excavated at Ain Ghazal (Amman), dating from the pre-pottery Neolithic period, around 6,250 BC.



Iron Age bronze incense burner from the 6th Century BC, excavated at a tomb in the Umm Uthman region of Amman.

TV & RADIO		WHAT'S GOING ON		FOR THE TRAVELLER		USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.	
JORDAN TELEVISION Tel. 773111-19		TODAY'S EVENTS pm. Closed on Friday.		QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06) 53300-5, where it should always be verified.		EMERGENCIES	
PROGRAMME ONE 14:00 Koran 14:25 Programme review 14:35 Cartoons 15:05 Children's series 15:20 Religious programme 15:45 Ramadan puzzle 16:05 Arabic play 16:45 Cooking programme 17:00 Religious series 17:30 Health and Fasting 17:50 Arabic comedy 18:30 Ramadan context 19:00 Religious programmes 19:30 Varieties programme 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Puzzles from all over the world 21:30 Historical series 23:00 News Summary in Arabic 23:10 Arabic series 24:00 Arabic play 01:05 Religious programme		EXHIBITIONS ★ Plastic Art Festival by 30 Jordanian and Arab artists at Tower Building. ★ Permanent book exhibition, at Tower Building, Jabbal Amman, 3rd Floor. ★ School exhibition, at Sukaina Aini Al Hussein School, Jabbal Hussein. ★ Painting exhibition by the Nazareth School students at the French Cultural Centre. ★ Shared art exhibition of works by children from 7 private schools in Amman at the Royal Cultural Centre.		ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1) 07:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ) 16:15 Amman (RJ) 16:30 Amman (RJ) 16:30 Kuwait (RJ) 16:30 Damascus (RJ) 16:30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ) 16:30 Dhahran (RJ) 16:30 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ) 17:45 Amman (RJ) 18:35 New York, Vienna (RJ) 19:00 Athens (RJ) 19:00 Miami, Vienna (RJ) 19:00 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ) 20:40 Tripoli (RJ) 01:30 Frankfurt, Aqaba (add.) (RJ)		NIGHT DUTY AMMAN: Dr. A. Awad 897919 Dr. A. Awad 846070 Dr. Issam Abu Baker 646426 Dr. Issam Abu Reziq 611784 First pharmacy 661912 Firdous pharmacy 783336 Al Asama pharmacy 637055 Nairokh pharmacy 623672 Al Salam pharmacy 636730 Yacoub pharmacy 644945 Shmeisani pharmacy 637660 TAXIS: Tadai taxi 640031 Venice taxi 644584 Asfour taxi 623230 Tamer taxi 813581 Nahla taxi 663003 Holiday taxi 663100 Sayed taxi 664422 Middle East taxi 604615	
PROGRAMME TWO 18:00 Le chevalier de pardillon [French series] 19:00 News in French 19:15 Sports Aloopers 19:30 News in Hebrew 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Yes, Prime Minister 21:00 Man and Music 22:30 News in English 22:30 Feature film: "Best of Safe Crackers"		CONCERT ★ The French Cultural Centre presents the Paris-based Al Kindi troupe in a concert of traditional classical Arabic music at 8:30 p.m. at the Haya Arts Centre.		PRAYER TIMES 04:09 Fajr 05:38 (Sunrise) Dhuha 12:32 Dhuhr 16:14 'Asr 19:27 Maghreb 20:55 'Isha		HOSPITALS Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32 Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6 Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 644212 Jabal Amman Maternity 642362 Mathas, J. Amman 636140 Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4 Shmeisani Hospital 669131 University Hospital 645845/6 Al-Musharraf Hospital 667227/9 The Islamic, Abdali 666127/7 Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6 Italian, Al-Muhajir 777101/2 Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 777112/6 Army, Marka 891611/15 Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50 Amal Hospital 674155	
RADIO JORDAN 855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 95.00 KHz. SIV Tel. 774111-19		VIDEO ★ "Heimat" (German) at 8:30 p.m. at the Goethe Institute.		OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2) 02:45 Belgrade, Istanbul (JU) 12:50 Baghdad (IA) 15:45 Tripoli (LN) 16:00 Riyadh (SV) 17:35 Cairo (MS) 18:05 Rome (AZ) 21:15 Frankfurt, Damascus (LH) 23:25 Paris, Damascus (AFI)		GENERAL Jordan Television 773111/19 Radio Jordan 774111/19 Ministry of Tourism 642311 Hotel complaints 666412 Police complaints 661176 Telephone Information 12 Jordan and Middle East calls 10 Overseas calls 17 Repair service 11	
VOICE OF AMERICA MW 1280 & SW 7200, 9565, 11740, 11925 and 12510 Hz		CULTURAL CENTRES Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 661026/7 American Centre 644371 American Centre library 641520 British Council 636147/8 French Cultural Centre 637009 Goethe Institute 641993 Soviet Cultural Centre 642003 Spanish Cultural Centre 623490 Turkish Cultural Centre 639777 Haya Arts Centre 665195 Hussein Youth City 667181/6 Y.W.C.A.A. 641793 Y.W.C.A.A. 642451 American Municipal Library 637111 Univ. of Jordan Library 643555		DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1) 08:00 Aqaba (RJ) 11:45 Tripoli (RJ) 12:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ) 12:30 Athens (RJ) 12:30 Paris (RJ) 12:45 Rome, Madrid (RJ) 12:55 Geneva, Brussels (RJ) 13:00 London (RJ) 13:15 Frankfurt (RJ) 13:30 Cairo (RJ) 20:30 Kuwait (RJ) 20:35 Bahrain, Doha (RJ) 21:00 Jerusalem (RJ) 21:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)		MARKET PRICES Upper/lower price in its per kg Apple (French) 400 / 360 Apple (green) 450 / 400 Apple (Lebanese) 300 / 250 Oranges 300 / 240 Banana 200 / 160 Beans 160 / 100 Beans (broad) 130 / 100 Cabbage 140 / 100 Carrot 180 / 120 Cauliflower (white) 170 / 120 Cherry (green) 450 / 360 Cucumbers 180 / 120 Dates (2 kgs) 600 / 501 Eggplant (large) 130 / 100 Eggplant (small) 140 / 100 Garlic (green) 140 / 100 Lemon 230 / 180 Mallow 280 / 220 Marrow 180 / 140 Onion (green) 160 / 100 Onion (dry) 120 / 80 Oranges (local) 240 / 200 Oranges (Shmeisani) 100 / 90 Parsley 90 / 90 Peas 150 / 100 Pepper (hot) 200 / 160 Pepper (sweet) 200 / 160 Potato 150 / 100 Raddish 130 / 100 Spinach 120 / 100 Strawberry 1200 / 800 Tomatoes 150 / 100 Vine leaves 400 / 300	

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

KHASAWNEH: Minister of Information Hani Al Khasawneh Thursday met with Algerian Ambassador in Amman Mohammad Hammam and discussed with him Jordanian-Algerian cooperation in information.

HMUD MEETS ENVOYS: Minister of Agriculture Marwan Al Hmoud Thursday met separately with Austrian and Indonesian Ambassadors in Amman and reviewed with them bilateral cooperation in agriculture.

ZAWAIDEN: Minister of Public Works and Housing Shafiq Zawaiden Thursday met separately with Austrian and Indonesian Ambassadors in Amman and discussed with them existing cooperation between Jordan and each of Austria and Indonesia.

HAI HASSAN: Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Hani Hassan Thursday discussed with British Ambassador in Amman Anthony Reeve existing bilateral cooperation in telecommunications and postal services.

HAMZEH IN GENEVA: Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh Thursday attended a celebration held in Geneva to mark the 40th anniversary of the creation of the World Health Organisation (WHO). Dr. Hamzeh delivered a speech on behalf of the East Mediterranean region in which he reviewed the key role played, and the medical services offered, by the WHO since its establishment in 1948. The minister is currently taking part in WHO annual session in Geneva.

ENVOY TO TUNIS: Jordan's Ambassador in Tunis Talal Al Hassan Thursday discussed with Arab League Secretary General Chadi Klibi in Tunis current developments in the Arab World and issues of common concern. The ambassador also discussed with Tunisian minister of youth and sports bilateral relations.

RED CRESCENT SOCIETY: The Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) has opened a medical clinic in the city of Ma'an to offer free medical services to citizens in the Ma'an governorate. The society will also organise seminars and lectures in the governorate to promote health awareness among inhabitants.

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS: Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Youssef Hamdan Al Jaber has asked the heads of municipal and village councils in the Kingdom to abide by the ministry's laws and regulations which govern the work of these councils. The ministry also requested the heads of municipal and village councils to involve a ministry representative in all of their projects and to have the ministry's approval for all financial matters.

SHAMMOUT DONATES AWARD: Dr. Hani Shammout from the Health Ministry has donated the full amount of a World Health Organisation (WHO) award he received to the Zakat (alms to the poor) fund of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, to support the anti-Israeli Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

ICRC ANNIVERSARY: Jordan will join countries of the world Monday in marking the 125th anniversary of the International Red Cross (ICRC). Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) will also mark the 40th anniversary of its establishment, according to JNRCS Chairman Dr. Ahmad Abu Oqura.

NEW LICENCES: The Drivers and Vehicles Licensing Department will soon start issuing new forms and models of driving licences, the department's Director Colonel Mahmoud Abu Hammour Thursday announced. He said that the new licences will be of high quality and will be provided with secret marks.

TRAFFIC DAY: A special committee for the International Traffic Day in Zaqra governorate has decided to hold a celebration in the city of Zaqra on Monday. During the celebration a number of people who served in the traffic sector in the governorate will be honoured and posters will be placed to remind the public of dangers and risks resulting from traffic violations.

U.K. COMPUTERS: Britain is currently providing Jordan with 2,000 microcomputer systems amounting to £2.2 million to be used by students at 200 high schools in the Kingdom over the coming three years. Britain will also spend £1.8 million on training, programmers and software for these systems.

JTV Channel 2 Preview

Sat. — May 7, 1988

8:30 Yes Prime Minister

9:10 Man and Music

This new series is an exploration of a great cultural tradition whose composers included Gluck, Mozart, Beethoven and Schubert. It contains film of their major works performed on original instruments in authentic locations.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Feature Film

Best of Safe Assassins
Starring: Tony Musanti, Simon Oakland

David Toma plays the role of a gang member, trying to steal a bank depending on a good plan.

Sun. — May 8, 1988

8:30 My Husband and I

9:10 World in Flames

The episode traces the conclusions of the Second World War on the Russian, European and Japanese fronts.

10:00 News in English

10:20 O'Hara

11:30 Rich man, poor man

Mon. — May 9, 1988

8:30 Perfect Strangers

9:10 Secret Army

10:00 News in English

10:20 Feature Film

Unfaithfully Yours
Starring: Dudley Moore, Nastassia Kinski

An orchestral conductor believes his wife is unfaithful, and while conducting a concert thinks of three different ways of dealing with the situation.

Tue. — May 10, 1988

8:30 I Married Dora

Dora spends a night alone with Peter in his bedroom when she is forced to convince her visiting parents that she is happily married to him.

9:10 New Series

10:00 News in English

10:20 Murder She Wrote
Jessica overhears a conspiracy for murder, with a spirit of a clever detective. She decides to know what is going on.

11:30 Rich man, poor man

Wed. — May 11, 1988

8:30 Guinness Records

9:00 Hooperman

9:30 Twilight Zone

10:00 News in English

10:20 Ford

A mini-series that chronicles the meagre beginnings and controversial growth of Henry Ford and the Ford Motor Company. Hailed as the "Father of the assembly-line" and credited with restructuring the labour force, Henry blazes new trails in the grand tradition that made U.S. businesses great. Embroiled in furious controversy and heated passions, the Ford dynasty soars to unprecedented heights amid charges of political favouritism, "blood-money" profiteering and anti-semitism.

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CARPETS FOR MOSQUE: Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat Thursday signed a JD 92,881 agreement with a local company, whereby the company will import carpets from Egypt and will use it for King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein Mosque. Signing the agreement for the company is its director general (Petra photo)

Transport companies prepare for pilgrimage

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs acting secretary general Thursday met with representatives of companies, which will transport and accommodate pilgrims, during the current pilgrimage season.

The ministry's preparations for the season outlined the ministry's efforts to make this year's pilgrimage season a success.

Khasawneh quits CAEU post; Ibrahim takes over

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Hani Khasawneh Thursday took the oath as Secretary General of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) in the presence of Industry, Trade and Supply Minister Hamdi Tabba'a.

Dr. Khasawneh also resigned his post as CAEU secretary general because he cannot retain his post as secretary general and that of information minister at the same time.

The Jordanian government has nominated the former Foreign

Minister Hassan Ibrahim for the post of CAEU secretary general.

Present at the oath-taking ceremony were Ministry of Industry and Trade secretary general and the CAEU legal consultant.

The CAEU elected Dr. Khasawneh unanimously for the post of secretary general during its session, which was held in Amman on Dec. 9 at the level of ministers of economy, and trade. Khasawneh was supposed to take up this post as of May 1.



ASSAD WITH AUSTRIAN ENVOY: Higher Education Minister Nasseruddin Al Assad Thursday discussed with the Austrian Ambassador to Jordan Arnold Moebius scopes of bilateral cooperation in the field of higher education and means of further enhancing such cooperation. Also on discussion was the question of 15 scholarships by Austria to Jordanian students, as promised by the Austrian President Kurt Waldheim during his visit to Jordan (Petra photo)

Aqaba authorities study plans for better services

AMMAN (Petra) — Aqaba is Jordan's second political and economic capital after Amman, and its major tourist capital because of its nice weather, warm water and the soft sandy beaches which are attracting a large number of tourist groups, who also have the chance to practice various kinds of sea sports.

Aqaba is the backbone of Jordan's economy since it is the Kingdom's only seaport.

Aqaba region constitutes 9.5 per cent of Jordan's total area, and has a population of 50,000 people living in 21 residential areas.

Qawaira is the largest residential area in Aqaba region, and it is the place where the second Arab palm forest will be established during the next three months.

Soil tests in this area was found to be suitable for palm-trees.

The palm-tree planting project will be accompanied by a programme under which Qawaira residents will be trained on methods to plant and care for palm-trees and will be informed of the economic gains they will get from such a project.

In Rashidieh, one of the region's villages, an organisational plan was prepared and the infrastructure services were provided.

At Disi basin, where a pilot agricultural project was launched, a compound for joint administrative services has been set up, and a library and two post offices were established.

However, not a single small residential area, will remain without such services, according to Aqaba Region Authority (ARA) President Bassam Qaush, who said that 35 per cent of the region's budget has been allocated for small residential gatherings, while 65 per cent has been allocated for developing the city of Aqaba itself.

To promote tourism to the region and to preserve natural environment, an agricultural reserve will be set up in Wadi Rum, similar to Al Shomari Wildlife Reserve.

The ARA will cooperate with the department of environment, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Royal Society for Conservation of Nature in setting up the new reserve.

Meanwhile the ARA is pursuing efforts to develop Aqaba city economically and has embarked on studies to establish a number of projects, designed to develop all sectors.

On the imported labour force, Qaush said a residential area for accommodating single non-Arab workers has been set up by the private sector.

The estate can accommodate up to 3,000 workers and provides all services to them at reasonable prices.

On the environment, Qaush said the authority is currently constructing a 30-kilometre back road, stretching from Wadi Al Yitm to Aqaba Port, to be used only by trucks and long vehicles.

This project is designed to reduce the noise and the pollution in the environment, and to beautify the northern entrance of the city. Once the road is completed all workshops will be moved outside the city.

Qaush added that 90 per cent of Aqaba houses has been painted in white, in implementation of the directives of His Majesty King Hussein. The white colour was selected because it is almost the colour of the sand in Aqaba and it helps to reduce the temperature in the houses and offices, since the white colour reflects the heat.

On the southern shore, Qaush said, the ARA, in cooperation with the tourist investment and development department has allocated tourist areas, called Coral Beach.

However, he added, the authority will establish the Qaboos Tourist Village, which will include 400 chalets that will be offered for sale to Jordanian and Arab citizens.

Feasibility study of this project has been undertaken and has been sent to the Kuwaiti Fund, which will finance the project.

The project also includes three swimming areas on the beach, a tourist camp, a diving centre and a sea park.

On the sports projects, Qaush said, a stadium has been established as a nucleus for an integrated sports city to alleviate the pressure on Al Hussein Sports City in Amman and to be used in winter for bolder football matches, when such matches can not be held in Amman because of heavy rainfall.

Qaush added that a royal Diving Centre has been set up.

On the development of the densely populated areas, the ARA president said the authority has prepared a plan for developing Shallaleh and ancient quarters in the city, in cooperation with the Urban Development Department (UDD).

The project will provide proper housing for 22,000 residents.

One major project which the ARA intends to implement is the construction of a conference hall which, once completed, will host Arab and international conference.

Other projects to be implemented are a bowling court, a swimming pool and a permanent youth camp.

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Religious celebrations mark Battle of Badr

AMMAN (Petra) — A grand religious celebration was held Thursday at Al Hussein Mosque to mark the anniversary of the Battle of Badr and the Mecca conquest.

Speaking at the celebration, which was organised by the Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ministry, was Awqaf Minister Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat who pointed out that the Islam is the religion of the right, justice, security, peace, Jihad (struggle).

Khayyat said the Battle of Badr, which took place between Quraish and the Muslims on Ramadan 17, and the conquest of Mecca were among the greatest battle the Islamic history has ever witnessed. The battle embodies the Islamic call, he noted.

The minister then reviewed Prophet Mohammad's position and the harm he suffered at the hands of Quraish and the resistance by the Romans and Persians to the Islamic call.

In this regard, Khayyat said that Muslims should recall what happened to the Prophet and to be fully aware of what the enemy harbours for them to obliterate their Muslim faith.

Mu'ta enrollment starts

KARAK (Petra) — All post offices throughout the Kingdom have started receiving applications for enrollment to the military science branch at Mu'ta University, to major in mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, computer sciences, mathematics, physics, chemistry, administrative and legal sciences, in addition to Arabic and English languages.

Deadline for accepting applications is May 14.

Khayyat also talked about the role of Prophet Mohammad's companions in the battle and called on Muslims to unify their ranks and fight their enemies. He praised the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

Also speaking at the ceremony was the Armed Forces Mufti Nuh Suleiman who reviewed the stages of the Battle of Badr and outlined Prophet Mohammad's role in the military planning and organisation of the battle.

Suleiman recalled the lessons derived from the battle. He called on all Muslims to learn from these lessons and to unite, leaving aside all marginal issues and inter-differences in service of the

greater cause, which is to maintain the strength of the Islamic nation, Suleiman said.

The mufti attributed the Muslim victory over the Romans, to the unified leadership and unified stands of Muslims who fought the Romans bravely, forgetting any material or marginal gains.

The Prophet's military plan has also delineated the landmarks of the battle and determined its result, Suleiman said.

Awqaf Deputy Secretary General Ahmad Helayyel reviewed the stages of the battle and the lessons learned from it and called on the Muslims to follow the Prophet's example.

Helayyel stressed the cohesion of the Jordanian family and its resolve to face any Zionist arrogance and to liberate Jerusalem and the occupied Arab territories.

Abu Nuseir residents get deadline for services

AMMAN (Petra) — Housing Corporation Director Youssef Hiyassat has given beneficiaries of Abu Nuseir Housing complex two months to call upon the corporation's office in Abu Nuseir to agree on the dates for installing central heating equipment and the Antennal connections.

He said that after the two week period, the corporation will not be responsible for installing the equipment and the Antennal connections, moreover defaulters will not benefit from the free maintenance costs.

Hiyassat added that the corporation intends to offer the vacant plots of land in the project for investment purposes.

He also mentioned that there are vacant plots which can be used for the construction of kindergartens and nurseries.

The corporation's director said that four mosques will also be built, two of which will have Islamic cultural centres.

On the Batrawi Housing Project in Zaqra, Hiyassat said next month the corporation will float a tender to construct 83 buildings, consisting of 500 housing units.

The project will include three designs, and the corporation will construct, as a first step, three buildings each representing one design, so as to let the beneficiaries decide on the design they want.

The project will include all services, such as schools, gardens, health and social centres, mosques, telephones and water networks.

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Hmoud: Jordan free of locusts so far

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Marwan Al Hmoud Friday confirmed that Jordan has not been invaded by locusts so far.

He said that the ministry has formed specialised teams, scattered along the border zone between Jordan and Saudi Arabia, to monitor the situation and to be in continuing contact with a ministry operation room.

All arrangements and measures have been taken in cooperation with the Badia Forces and the Royal Jordanian Air Forces for action against possible locust invasion, Hmoud said.

The minister also added that he was in direct contact with concerned Saudi authorities and with the Jeddah based U.N. Anti-Locust Centre.

On Saudi Arabia's measures, the minister said fighting operations against locusts were continuing successfully by the Saudi authorities.

Meanwhile special teams equipped with chemical spraying equipment Thursday headed to the eastern areas of Ma'an to monitor and confront a possible locust invasion from Saudi Arabia.

The hot air depression, centred over Sudan, started to ease thus limiting the locust movement to Saudi territories, the minister said.

Meanwhile special teams equipped with chemical spraying equipment Thursday headed to the eastern areas of Ma'an to monitor and confront a possible locust invasion from Saudi Arabia.

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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Rai: No compromise, no bargain

KING Hussein said that no member of the Jordanian family will ever compromise or bargain over any inch of Palestinian territory or matter how strong Israel is. This means that no one in Jordan will ever give up any responsibility nor will it ever betray the trust of defending Jerusalem and the holy places in Palestine. The King is entrusted with safeguarding the security and peace in the holy city and protecting all holy places and ensuring free worshiping for all people. Therefore, the King and his people have the honour in protecting these holy places and will never abandon the struggle for their return to Arab sovereignty. It also means that this is a firm commitment and a national responsibility to strive to regain the Palestinian land and its holy places in Jerusalem and it is a duty for Jordan to defend Arab holy places despite the difficulties and no matter how strong the enemy is. The King's reaffirmation of these principles in his iftar banquet is bound to corroborate the march of struggle towards liberation and freedom and is bound to enhance our national stand. The King has thus thwarted enemy attempts to throw doubts on Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the Palestine issue and to force this country to capitulate or succumb to threats. King Hussein has renewed a pledge towards Jerusalem and the holy places in Palestine and to work for the establishment of a just peace.

Al Dustour: Jordan's commitments

KING Hussein's address in the Mafrq Governorate on Wednesday re-emphasised the Jordanian principles and underlined this country's determination to confront the challenges and the falsehoods circulated by the enemies of the Arab Nation. In his speech the King stressed that Jordan was determined to refute all allegations and lies being put about by Israel and its allies against the Arab Nation in general and Jordan in particular. He also made it clear that no one in this country will ever bargain or compromise over one inch of Arab land in Palestine. This the King said, is our national stand no matter of Israel's might and regardless of the type of weapons it is using against us. The monarch also made it clear that Jordan remains committed to the international conference for the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 for the return of all parts of occupied Arab territory. But he said though Jordan seeks a just and honourable peace it will continue to build up its strength to face any eventuality and to thwart the enemy's plots.

Sawt Al Shaab: United behind leader

ALL Jordanians are firmly united behind their King and all citizens are shouldering their national responsibility under his wise guidance. The Jordanian family is fused together through long years of struggle for the achievement of the national aspirations and for implementing the ideas and upholding the principles of the Great Arab Revolt. King Hussein has been upholding these principles and leading his countrymen towards unity with Arab countries and in the struggle towards liberating the usurped Arab territories. King Hussein said that he and his Jordanian family will not betray the trust which this country has inherited and will continue to defend the holy places in Palestine and strive to liberate the Arab people there from Israeli occupation. Through their belonging to this country and this nation the Jordanians have transformed this country into a strong fortress standing high and firm in the face of all enemy conspiracies.

Thursday's

Al Rai: King reaffirms national commitment

IN his meetings with his people at iftar banquet King Hussein has been reaffirming the importance of national commitment on the part of all members of the Jordanian family. He also has been reiterating Jordan's total adherence to the achievement of a durable peace through an international conference that would implement U.N. Security Council resolutions. The monarch has been repeating that Jordan will never act on behalf of the Palestinians in any matter related to a solution for the Palestine problem. Needless to say, that these confirmations and reaffirmations of Jordan's policies represent the King's determined stand and Jordan's attitude with regard to the Middle East question and the initiatives being offered for a solution. This means that Jordan will not serve as an alternative to Palestinian land for the Palestinian people because it is Jordanian territory, but Jordan and its people will continue to support the Palestinians and help them regain their rights and their homeland. The King's reaffirmation refutes all falsehoods and lies being circulated by the enemies of this country. Jordan, as the King said, will remain alert and ready for any development and will continue to thwart enemy attempts directed against the Arab Nation.

Al Dustour: Another Israeli invasion

ONCE again and with total disregard to the international laws, Israel has committed a new act of aggression on Lebanon designed to further dismember that country. The new assault was a continuation of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982 and comes at a time when the Arabs are confronting other serious threats in other parts of the Arab World. The new attack could also be designed to escalate tension in the Middle East just before the projected U.S.-Soviet summit meeting which is scheduled at the end of this month, and a means to divert world attention from what is going inside the occupied Arab territories. But the Palestinian people have proved that they were determined to pursue the struggle and to maintain the uprising regardless of Israel's manoeuvres and despite the Israeli oppression until justice is done.

Bourguiba slips into history as Tunisia seeks Arab roots

By Elaine Ganley
 The Associated Press

TUNIS, Tunisia — Habib Bourguiba's statue still dominates a square in central Tunis, but the man who towered over Tunisia for decades has slipped into history six months after he was forced out of power.

Proclaiming a "new era," new President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali is retooling Tunisia's destiny, trying to make peace with its citizenry and with a Muslim heritage largely ignored during three decades of Bourguiba's rule.

Ben Ali, who seized power Nov. 7 during a tense crackdown on Islamic fundamentalists, is nearly universally credited — even by his political opponents — with sparing this North African country from social upheaval.

Now that he is in power, newspapers once banned are back in kiosks. Police, citizens say, are no longer feared. Tunis University, disrupted three days a week last year by demonstrations, is quiet.

The nation's legislature, monopolised by Bourguiba's ruling party since Tunisia's independence 32 years ago, has moved toward pluralism with a new law on political parties. And some 5,000 prisoners, many members of an outlawed Islamic fundamentalist group, have been pardoned.

Ben Ali has extended a hand, in fact, to the growing Islamic fundamentalist movement, Bourguiba's chief target in his waning years.

Now, TV and radio broadcast the five daily calls to prayer. And Ben Ali, a military man once in charge of the crackdown on fundamentalists, invokes Allah at the start of speeches. In a highly publicised pilgrimage to Mecca, he cried openly at the sacred Kaaba.

"It's life that's changed, not just politics," said Chakhi Douss, a brassware merchant in the Tunis bazaar. "Now everyone is free. We feel it every day, every minute. It's not something you read about in the newspaper. It's something you touch."

Al Rai: King reaffirms national commitment

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Honeymoon?

Others praise their new president with less abandon, but even the government's opponents are not unkind.

"It's still the honeymoon, so everyone feels obliged to publicly approve him," said Mohamed Jaibi, editor-in-chief of the weekly *Maghreb*, reopened in September after being shut down four years ago.

"I hope this is a temporary situation," he added. "Otherwise, we'll be back in the old system with a president who thinks he is infallible."

Bourguiba, 84, who led Tunisia to independence from France in 1956, ruled as the nearly mystical president-for-life, a benign dictator in charge of a nominal democracy with his ruling Destourian Socialist Party controlling all seats in the national assembly. None of the three legal opposition parties had a meaningful voice.

He pursued a pro-Western policy that all but ignored the heritage of his nation's seven million people.

After his removal, Bourguiba was confined to a chateau near Tunis where he is thought to remain. Once pictured daily in every newspaper and newscast, he now lives in anonymity.

Ben Ali promised that his new era would "open the horizons to a truly democratic and evolved political life."

Since taking office, he has moved to abolish the lifelong presidency, change the electoral code and laws controlling the press, dismantle the feared state security court and give Amnesty International, the London-based human rights group, a permit to operate here — its first in the Arab World.

Ben Ali has also restored diplomatic relations with neighbouring Libya and stresses ties with the Arab World in a more outward-looking diplomacy.

While many citizens appear won over by the changes, however, opposition politicians remain warily expectant. Fundamental-

ists are asking whether the tears Ben Ali shed in Mecca were real. Islam has always been the state religion, but Bourguiba maintained a secular approach to government and daily life.

The final year of his reign was marked by the battle he waged against the outlawed Islamic Tendency Movement (MTI), culminating in the September trial of 90 fundamentalists for plotting against the state.

Islamic dossier remains

"The Islamic dossier remains the hottest one on Ben Ali's desk. It's his biggest obstacle," said Hassen Ghodhmi, an Islamic lawyer who defended some of the 90 in the September trial.

Measures taken so far are not sufficient, he said. "Islam isn't just prayer and pilgrimage. It's an entire life system."

Last week, the legislature quashed any hope MTI could become a legal opposition party — one of its demands — by passing a bill that allows for new parties but forbids those based on religion, language, race or region.

"The government has adopted a double attitude toward Islam," said the opposition politician — containing the groundswell while acting devout.

"It is a position which is both clever and dangerous," he said.

Ben Ali's other albatross is "Bourguibism," the omnipresent political machine which ran the country for three decades.

The ruling party has been renamed and Ben Ali has undertaken a massive restructuring in an effort to break the grip of the old guard. Almost all regional party leaders have been replaced and thousands more are under scrutiny.

But the new president has only cautiously approached the Bourguiba mystique itself.

The French-Arab bi-weekly *Les Années* was pulled from newsstands after printing a cartoon showing the culture minister leading Bourguiba into a museum.

Mitterrand campaigns on social reforms to extend mandate

By Alan Philips
 Reuters

PARIS — The sinister shadow of the guillotine no longer falls on the cells of murderers in France — thanks to President Francois Mitterrand.

Thousands of French criminals have had their heads chopped off by the gruesome contraption, adopted in 1791 at the height of the French revolution, but Mitterrand scrapped the death penalty in one of his first acts on taking power in 1981.

It was part of a package of measures by Mitterrand, France's first Socialist president following 23 years of rule by the right, to bring France in line with other Western European countries.

As his seven-year term draws to a close, Mitterrand is campaigning for a new mandate in Sunday's presidential election largely on the strength of his social reforms.

He says he is proud to have broken the constraints of France's centuries-old rigid centralisation, extended the system of paid holidays and shortened the working week to 39 hours, the first cut since 1936 under the leftist Popular Front.

But he has drawn a veil over the twists and turns which have accompanied most other aspects of his mandate.

Mitterrand, who served in 11 of the 23 governments under France's tempestuous Fourth Republic, is remembered by many for his subtle manoeuvring.

His biographer, Catherine Nay, entitled her recent work on the president "The Seven Mitterrands." She says he has appeared in a new guise for each year of his mandate.

Master of stealth

"Mitterrand is a past master at allowing his colours to be nailed to the highest mast and then changing them by stealth," commented a West European diplomat.

His chief of staff, Jean-Louis Bianco, comments with studied understatement: "The president is a pragmatic man."

Elected with Communist support in 1981 on a programme of 110 radical reforms, Mitterrand is now bidding for a new term on platform calling for stability and continuity. The Communists, now a spent force, were discarded from government in 1984.

The president began with an ambitious programme to nationalise major banks and industrial companies while engineering an economic boom to mop up unemployment. His policy of spending his way out of recession backfired.

A series of franc crises forced the government to adopt unpopular austerity measures. The euphoria which greeted Mitterrand's election quickly died down. An ill-timed educational reform united the right against him in 1984.

Tumbling in the opinion polls and shaken by the Rainbow Warrior affair, in which secret agents sunk the anti-nuclear protest ship in Auckland harbour in 1985, Mitterrand suffered a new humiliation in the March, 1986, general election.

The Socialists lost control of parliament to rightist leader Jacques Chirac, who became prime minister and forced Mitterrand to take a back seat while he unrolled much of the Socialist leader's work.

Mitterrand retreated to the high ground of defence and foreign affairs while Chirac — now his rival for the presidency — sold off nationalised companies, tightened up on law and order at home and overhauled a creaking broadcasting system.

Touton

But the president did not admit defeat, bouncing back in a new role as touton (uncle), a kind of constitutional monarch above the political fray, and rising to unprecedented heights of popularity.

Abroad, Mitterrand has worked to strengthen the European Community, building up strong ties with West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez.

In a memorable act, Mitterrand and Kohl stood hand in hand at a World War One memorial in September 1984 to symbolise reconciliation between the two traditional foes.

In Chad, he quickly abandoned leftist promises and played France's traditional role of the gendarme of Africa. This put him on a head-on collision course with Libya.

Mitterrand shocked the Soviets by scrapping the 'special relationship' set up by General Charles de Gaulle in 1958 as part of his nationalistic, anti-American foreign policy.

The Socialist government clamped down on alleged Soviet espionage in Paris in 1983, ordering out 47 Soviet staff in the first such mass expulsion.

But he shocked the Kremlin even more the same year when he supported American plans to install U.S. Pershing-2 missiles in West Germany to counter-balance Soviet SS-20s.

Coming from a Socialist, his call was seen as treachery by West Germany's anti-nuclear opposition and it gave powerful moral backing to the U.S. missile

boost.

But, in a typical change of track, he is now a staunch defender of disarmament. "Peace" has become a main plank in his re-election platform.

Defying his reputation for supporting a strong nuclear defence, he surprised his U.S. and British allies on the eve of a NATO summit meeting in March by opposing the modernisation of U.S. short-range missiles.

But he remains a defender of France's independent nuclear deterrent set up by de Gaulle — which he once scorned as a "baby bomb" — so long as the super-powers keep their arsenals.

A blessed month of special nurture

By Adil Salahi

FASTING is the mouth of Ramadan is one of the five pillars upon which the structure of Islam is built. The other four are the declaration of one's belief in the Oneness of Allah and in the message of Mohammad (peace be on him), regular attendance to prayer, payment of *zakah* and pilgrimage.

If we examine these five pillars, taking into account the fact that Islam aims at improving the quality of human life at both the individual and social levels, we find that the first of these five pillars is concerned with beliefs which influence man's conduct. The second, i.e. prayer, aims at providing a constant reminder to man of his relationship with Allah. The third is a social obligation which reduces the gap between the rich and the poor, while the fifth, i.e. pilgrimage, has a universal aspect which unites the nation of Islam.

Fasting in Ramadan, the fourth of these pillars, has a particularly high importance which is derived from its very personal nature as an act of worship. Although in a country like Saudi Arabia no one dares defy public feelings by showing that he is not fasting, there is nothing to stop anyone from violating Allah's commandment in private, if he chooses to do so. This means that although fasting is obligatory, its observance is purely voluntary. The fact is that fasting cannot be used by a hypocrite in order to persuade others to believe that he is a devout Muslim. If a person claims to be a Muslim, he is expected to fast in Ramadan. If he is fasting voluntarily on other days, he should not go around and tell people that he is fasting. If he does so, he detracts from his reward for his voluntary worship.



Rose Al Yousif — Cairo

Palestinians dig in, plough for a long-lasting revolt

By Sharon Waxman
 Reuters

SILWAD, Occupied West Bank — "Before the uprising I had a butcher's shop," said Mohammad Abdallah Hassan Hamid, 65. "It's closed now. Meat is too expensive."

Like many Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Silwad residents are feeling the pinch of growing economic hardship in a four-month-old revolt.

Hamid balances a weed-covered pick and two burlap bags of seed and soil on his donkey as it trudges from the fields. He has planted wheat and olive trees on land not farmed since Israel occupied the West Bank in the 1967 Middle East war.

One of the ways Palestinians have sought to cope with new poverty and food shortages has been to plant their land. It is also a return to their roots.

"If we work on the land we will live. If we don't, we won't live," said Abdul Khalid Mohammad, 28, also returning from the fields. Mohammad built Arab homes in the West Bank before the uprising.

Palestinians of the occupied territories have subsisted since the uprising began on Dec. 9 mainly from savings, remittances from abroad, occasional work and helping one another.

But as they prepare for what they expect to be a long struggle, residents have stifled their anxiety by seeking creative ways to manage.

Nearly 30 per cent of the 105,000 Palestinians who worked in Israel before the uprising no longer go to work regularly, according to Israeli statistics.

Merchants of the occupied territories including Jerusalem have

closed their doors except for the three hours a day allowed by the underground leadership of the uprising. Sometimes the army forces shops to close during those hours.

Teachers do not work because the Israeli army has closed the schools and hundreds of Palestinian policemen resigned in solidarity with the uprising, known as the *Intifada*.

"The harm to Israel is nothing," said Arye Piki, the Labour Ministry spokesman. "The harm is to themselves, the man who does not go to work. Their standard of living is dropping."

Surviving on basics

Some Palestinians in the occupied territories seem to agree.

Some, like political science Professor Sa'eb Erakat, see it almost as a virtue.

"It's amazing how little you need to live on when you really try," said Erakat, whose university in Nablus has been closed since the start of the unrest.

Others feel only the pain of sacrifice. Abdul Hamid Taha, father of 10 in the Ein Arlik refugee camp and a former labourer in Israel, said: "We are living 20 per cent of our normal lives."

In the economic pinch, most Palestinians have done without luxuries like new clothes, shoes or cars. Since the uprising, couples who marry do so quietly, without parties, residents say they have put off expensive repairs and purchases.

Refugee camp residents, traditionally poorer than city-dwellers, have been most severely hit by nearly five months of closed shops and voluntary unemployment, and some now face food shortages, Palestinians say.

Though no one faces starvation, places like Kafr Numa and Deir Ammar, which youths have barricaded with stones, lack staples such as milk and flour.

Refugees from the Al Amari camp went last week to Ramallah to ask for donations of money and food.

Israelis destroy foodstuff

Everyone reported shortages of vegetables. Israeli soldiers have repeatedly overturned carts of produce in the Ramallah market, and Palestinians say soldiers destroy crates of vegetables when they find them in residents' cars.

In a response that is both practical and idealistic, many Palestinians have planted garden plots in the cities and camps and fields in the villages at the urging of newly-formed agriculture committees.

Some Palestinians, such as Mohammad, earn money by planting the fields of elderly people who have savings. "I plant — like our ancestors did," he says proudly.

Even a middle-class pharmacist like Omar Abu Sinan has caloused hands from planting tomatoes and cucumbers in a small plot.

Abu Sinan, whose Ramallah shop may open two days a week according to the rules of the uprising, said economic shortages are the price Palestinians must pay to perpetuate the *Intifada* and gain their freedom.

"We believe if we are patient for some time and we pay the economic price now, it will bear fruit in the future," said Abu Sinan.

The pharmacist, who lives in Silwad, learned to plant from the elderly Hamid. "Land is a unifying thing," said Abu Sinan. "It is a matter of ideology."

lim who knows the purpose of fasting and strives to fulfil it.

There is also a special aspect to fasting. It makes all people share in the feelings of hunger and thirst. In normal circumstances, people with decent income may go from one year's end to another without experiencing the pangs of hunger which a poor person may feel every day of his life. Such an experience helps draw the rich nearer to the poor. Indeed, we are encouraged to be more charitable in Ramadan in order to follow the example of the Prophet who was described by his companions as "the most generous of all people." Yet he achieved in Ramadan an even higher degree of generosity. His companions say of him that he was in Ramadan "more generous and charitable than unrestrained wind."

"The beginning of this month (Ramadan) is compassion, its middle is forgiveness and its end witnesses people's release from the fire."

Prophet Mohammad

Fasting has also a universal, or, in the Islamic sense, a national aspect. As Muslims all over the world share in this blessed act of worship, they feel their unity and equality. Their sense of unity is enhanced by the fact that every Muslim individual joins voluntarily in fulfilling Allah's commandment. The unity of Muslims is far from superficial; it is a unity of action and purpose, since they all fast in order to be better human beings. As one restrains himself from the things he desires most in order to earn Allah's pleasure, self-discipline and sacri-

fice become part of his nature. He learns to give generously for a good cause.

The month of Ramadan is aptly described as a "festive season of worship." Fasting is the main aspect of worship in this month, but people are more attentive to their prayers in Ramadan than they are on other days. They are more generous and charitable too. Thus, their devotion is more complete and they feel in Ramadan much happier because they feel themselves to be closer to Allah. Therefore, they love this month which is, to them, one of endless benefits and blessings. Indeed, nothing describes our great month better than the words of our Prophet as he addresses his companions and all generations of Muslims on the eve of Ramadan.

"A great and blessed month is approaching. One of its nights is better than a thousand months. Allah has made fasting in it obligatory and worship in it religiously voluntary... He who fulfills one religious obligation in it receives the reward of 70 such obligations fulfilled in other times. It is the month of perseverance and endurance which can be rewarded only by admission into heaven. It is the month of comforting in which the means of a believer are improved. He who gives food to another to break his fast is forgiven his sins and he saves his neck from hell. He is also given a similar reward to that given to the fasting person without detracting anything from the other's reward... Allah gives this reward even to a person who offers another a piece of date, a drink of water or milk... The beginning of this month is compassion, its middle is forgiveness and its end witnesses people's release from the fire." — Arab News

Egypt demands absolute sovereignty over Taba

CAIRO (R) — Egypt said Thursday it would accept nothing less than absolute sovereignty over Taba, the strip of Sinai beachfront which has sparked a border dispute with Israel. A Foreign Ministry spokesman indicated Egypt would reject U.S. plans for a last-minute out-of-court settlement of the dispute unless they gave Egypt full sovereignty over the tiny enclave on the Gulf of Aqaba.

The head of the ministry's legal department, Ahmad Maher, briefed U.S. envoy Abraham Sofaer on Egypt's stand.

The spokesman did not say whether Maher had flatly rejected Sofaer's ideas or whether Cairo felt his proposals offered scope for compromise.

But he indicated Egypt was content to let arbitration hearings in Geneva go ahead.

"The measures for international arbitration to resolve the Taba

dispute are on course," he said. "We categorically reject reports from Israel on thoughts or ideas on a settlement of the Taba dispute which do not conform with Egypt's firm stand."

"Any settlement must be based on full and absolute Egyptian sovereignty without a breach of any rights as a sovereign state," the spokesman said.

Sofaer has been shuttling between the two countries to try to get a settlement. Israel and Egypt have until May 10 to ask the three-man arbitration panel to postpone deliberations on its verdict, due to be issued by July 15 at the latest.

Diplomats in Israel said Sofaer proposed a return of the 700-metre strip to Egyptian sovereignty but with Israel allowed free access and day-to-day management of the resort.

They said Israeli leaders agreed to empower Sofaer to continue

mediating, but without accepting his proposals.

Foreign Ministry sources in Cairo said Egypt wanted to end what they termed Israeli procrastination.

"We want to put an end to all this bargaining. Either they recognise our complete sovereignty or let arbitration take its course... Egyptian sovereignty is unquestionable," they said.

Israel kept Taba after withdrawing from the Sinai peninsula in April 1982 in accordance with its 1979 treaty. It says old maps show it as part of Palestine.

Washington is seeking a compromise because a clear-cut ruling in favour of either side could lead to a crisis in relations between Egypt and Israel.

Relations have been particularly cool over Israel's handling of the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza.



Sheikh Zayed UAE favours continued relations with Iran

ABU DHABI (R) — The president of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) suggested Thursday his country would maintain relations with Iran despite Saudi Arabia's decision to cut ties.

"We can protect the Gulf and ensure its security and stability if there is cooperation and understanding among all states of the region," Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan said during Army Day celebrations.

Diplomatic sources said the remarks showed he still favoured a conciliatory approach towards Iran despite an Iranian gunboat attack on the UAE's Mubarak oilfield April 18.

The UAE is a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) along with Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman.

Saudi Arabia cut ties with Tehran April 26, citing Iran's hostile policy. Bahrain this week said other GCC states might follow but diplomatic sources ruled out such a move by the UAE or Oman.

Sheikh Zayed hinted Thursday he was not in favour of the Saudi move. "The current circumstances in our region entail wisdom by all parties. We should work together to keep the Gulf away from international conflicts," he said.

A senior Iranian envoy Sunday delivered a letter to Sheikh Zayed from President Ali Khamenei urging him to pursue efforts for dialogue, diplomatic sources said.

Violence engulfs Shatila, Beirut's southern suburbs

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Rocket, mortar and machinegun fire rocked a Palestinian camp in Beirut and the Shi'ite southern suburbs as fresh rounds of violence hit the Lebanese capital Friday.

At least eight people were killed and 36 wounded in inter-Palestinian battles at the city's Shatila refugee camp, according to the AP.

In separate violence, four militiamen of Justice Minister Nabih Berri's Amal movement were killed in Beirut's southern slums by unidentified gunmen in a speeding car. Amal blamed a rival Shi'ite faction.

A bomb exploded in a movie theatre in Syrian-policed west Beirut Thursday night, killing two people and wounding five, police said.

It was the third cinema bombing in west Beirut in two weeks. Two people were wounded in the earlier blasts.

A police spokesman said Muslim fundamentalists were believed to be behind the bombings in a bid to force the closure of amusement centres during the fasting month of Ramadan.

Witnesses quoted by Reuters said fighters loyal to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat in Shatila battled with fighters of the dissident pro-Syrian group led by Abu Musa.

Arafat loyalists were dug into sandbagged positions at the camp's eastern side while Abu Musa's fighters were entrenched behind positions at the western edges of the settlement.

"They were shooting at each other continuously. The whole area around the camp was deserted," said one witness.

Syrian troops who are deployed around the shantytown opened heavy machinegun fire at the camp, they added.

"We are firing as a warning to both sides not to open fire at our positions. We have warned them before but they continued to shoot at us," one soldier told reporters.

The Syrian forces took up positions around the camps last year to end three years of battles between Palestinians and Amal militiamen which killed 2,500 people.

Arafat loyalists controlled the eastern sector of the camp, where some 3,000 refugees live, while his opponents held the western half close to Syrian positions. It was not clear what touched

off the fighting. But it was the second outbreak of violence this week in Shatila.

At least eight fighters were killed and 43 wounded May 2. It was the first major clash between the two factions since Arafat's reconciliation meeting with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in Damascus two weeks ago after a five-year feud.

Arafat's Fatah, the main group within the PLO, overran most of the rival faction's positions in Shatila in that clash.

In the south Beirut violence, Amal accused the pro-Iranian Hizbollah of killing the four militiamen in the Hay Madi district.

Police said Amal militiamen besieged the main Hizbollah barracks in the Bir Al Abed neighbourhood soon after the shooting, but there were no immediate reports of any more shooting.

Amal crushed Hizbollah in South Lebanon last month. Sixty-two people were killed and 150 wounded in four days of fighting.

Rightist-army feud

In another development, Lebanese police deployed in east Beirut Friday to defuse tension between rightist militants and the Lebanese army, security sources said.

They said police units took up position at major intersections in

Beirut and areas to the north controlled by the Christian-dominated rightist Lebanese Forces (LF) militia.

The deployment followed a meeting between top LF officials and army commander General Michel Aoun sponsored by Presi-

dent Amin Gemayel Thursday to try to avoid a confrontation in Christian areas, the sources added.

Tension has risen ahead of an election in August to replace Gemayel, himself a Maronite Christian.

Mideast link possible in Los Angeles killing

LOS ANGELES — Awni Said Rayyis had two passions — his job and his people.

On Monday, he had planned to use his lunch hour to join fellow Palestinians in front of the Israeli consulate in Los Angeles. They were going to protest the killing of Khalil Wazir, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader whose recent assassination in Tunisia was attributed to Israeli agents.

But at the last minute he backed out, telling friends he needed to tend to something important at work. A senior waste inspector for the city's bureau of sanitation, Rayyis, 59, had headed several investigations against large companies suspected of illegally dumping hazardous wastes.

Monday afternoon, shortly after the protest went on without him, Rayyis was walking to his car outside a city lab north of Chinatown when he was gunned down by an unknown assailant.

Police say Rayyis had just delivered samples of waste water when a suspect confronted him on the street and an argument

broke out. After pumping two bullets into Rayyis' chest, the gunman drove away in a stolen light blue sports car that was found abandoned two blocks from the lab.

Police are seeking a 19-to 20-year-old Latino seen running from the car. They say the killing appears to be a "random street robbery" even though no money was taken from Rayyis.

But his family and friends — pointing to the dangers inherent in Rayyis' job and the work he did on behalf of the Palestinian community — are not discounting that his death may have been an act of revenge.

They say Rayyis had received two death threats in the past over the telephone. The last one came shortly before the October, 1985, death of Alex Odeh — the regional director of the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee — who was killed in a bombing at his Santa Ana office.

The FBI has linked Odeh's murder to Jewish extremists, but no arrests have ever been made — The Los Angeles Times

MIDEAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Whitehead to discuss hijack

WASHINGTON (AP) — Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead will hold talks with Algerian officials next week regarding their government's role in ending the hijacking of a Kuwaiti jetliner, the State Department announced Thursday. Whitehead will visit Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco between May 9 and 15, said spokesman Charles Redman. In his talks in Algiers, Whitehead will ask for information regarding the fate of the hijackers and the terms of the deal under which they released 31 hostages following their 16-day ordeal last month. Algeria has been reluctant to reveal details of the case, saying it must maintain its international credibility as a crisis negotiator. Redman said the United States still does not have any indication that the hijackers left Algeria, despite news reports that the Iranian-backed extremists travelled from Algiers to Syria and then to Lebanon.

Cyprus protests Turkish visit

NICOSIA (AP) — Cyprus has protested to the United Nations Security Council over a planned visit to the Turkish-Cypriot sector of the island by Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz, government spokesman Akis Fantis said Thursday. The protest coincided with an announcement that President George Vassiliou has received an official invitation to visit Moscow. The date will be announced later, the announcement said. The Yilmaz visit to the Turkish Cypriot republic of northern Cyprus was announced earlier by Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman Ihsan Bulut, though no date has been fixed yet.

Egyptian frigate visits S. Arabia

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian navy frigate arrived in the Saudi Arabian port of Jeddah Thursday in the first such visit since the two countries restored diplomatic ties last November. Military sources in Cairo said the frigate Nasser would stay three days in the Red Sea port. The visit comes amid increasing military contacts between Egyptian and Arab Gulf officials.

S. Yemeni leader visits Cuba

ADEN (R) — South Yemeni leader Ali Salem Al Baidh left for Cuba on the first leg of a tour of socialist countries including Nicaragua, the Aden News Agency reported. Baidh, secretary-general of the ruling Socialist Party, told reporters on departure that he would have talks on ways of boosting cooperation between Aden and socialist countries.

Israeli arms dealer jailed

HONG KONG (R) — An Israeli arms dealer was sentenced to two years in jail in Hong Kong Friday for possessing six false passports, a sten gun and cannabis. Zvi Gafni, 37, had pleaded guilty to the charges. His lawyer said he would appeal against the sentence. The court earlier heard a statement made to police after Gafni's arrest last December in which he said he had sold arms to Hong Kong's police force. His lawyer Ian Polson told the court that five Israelis travelled to Peking last November on fake Philippine passports to try to sell arms to China, but said he could reveal no further details of the arms deal.

Israel seeks to choke Arab businesses

(Continued from page 1)

strikes. "It's clear the Israelis are trying to drive a wedge between the people and the leaders," Kanaan said in an interview. "But people are aware of the Israeli games. They aren't stupid, they know what's going on and I can assure you they are willing to sacrifice everything they have for the uprising."

In Gaza City, dozens of school children chanting "PLO yes, Israel no" hoisted the Palestinian flag Thursday onto a flagpole at a school-run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, an Arab reporter said.

Troops fired tear-gas to disperse the children, who erected barricades of boulders and set fires ablaze in front of the school, the reporter said.

In the West Bank, hundreds of Jewish settlers marched near the village of Belta, where one month ago an Israeli girl and two Palesti-

nians were killed in a clash between villagers and a group of settlers.

The marchers told reporters they wanted to show they could walk without fear anywhere in the "biblical land of Israel."

There were incidents of petrol bombs thrown at buses in the West Bank. An Israeli was lightly wounded when Palestinians threw stones at a bus near Ramallah.

In the West Bank village of Beit Ummar, residents said 400 soldiers invaded a high school Wednesday evening, damaging the library and the laboratory. The army returned to the village Thursday and clashed with demonstrators.

PLO vows intensified support

In Baghdad, Palestinian leaders vowed Friday to intensify support for the Palestinian uprising.



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AMMAN, JORDAN

Iran shifts from Gulf to Europe to buy petroleum products

BAHRAIN (R) — Iran, its refineries smashed by war and its ties with Arab neighbours crumbling, is moving away from clandestine Gulf sources to buy refined products in Europe, regional oil traders said.

"A supply of gas oil and kerosene to Iran on three large tankers from northwest Europe since last March indicates a clear policy change," a Gulf-based oil trader said.

Despite some diverse buying from Singapore to the Caribbean, Iran has relied heavily on refined products spirited out of Gulf Arab states which support its war enemy Iraq.

Oil industry sources say a switch to Europe would make sense if Iran feared its deteriorating relations with Gulf states could choke off supplies.

("The Iranians are either demanding more products or they do not want to rely too heavily on Gulf sources after Saudi Arabia broke diplomatic relations," one said.

Riyadh severed diplomatic ties with Iran on April 27. Saudi anger has risen since riots last July in the Muslim holy city of Mecca which killed more than 400 people, mostly Iranians.

Iranian attacks on Saudi ships, on Kuwait and on a United Arab Emirates oil platform, and Tehran's refusal to accept limits on the number of pilgrims who can attend this year's Mecca pilgrimage, have further soured relations in the Gulf.

Traders said Gulf Arabs did not sell refined products directly to Iran but international oil companies did.

Companies often supplied Iran via reprocessing agreements with Far Eastern refineries or in a products-for-crude swap.

But most bought refined products from Gulf refineries for truck and tank diesel engines, kerosene for jets and for heating and small volumes of gasoline for cars.

Iran mainly imports gas oil for trucks and tank diesel engines, kerosene for jets and for heating and small volumes of gasoline for cars.

It needs between 200,000 and 400,000 barrels per day (b/d) to fuel its economy and war machine, traders estimate. Local demand for oil products is around 800,000 b/d.

Iraq has wrecked two-thirds of Iran's pre-war 1.3 million b/d refining capacity in raids aimed at choking Tehran's ability to wage war.

Iran's local refining capacity is now estimated at around 400,000 b/d with its main Tabriz and Tehran refineries either out of action or on reduced operation.

Iran in the past two months chartered two large tankers, normally used to carry crude, through a European-based oil-trading firm to carry gas oil from Europe's refining centre near Rotterdam.

Traders said gas oil was cheaper when moved in large volumes. In London, tanker brokers said Iran had entered the market in search of a large vessel to carry gasoil in May to its Hormuz oil terminal at the Gulf entrance.

However, Gulf oil traders said they did not expect the flow of oil products to Iran from Arab sources to dry up at once. "It will continue as long as the economics work and there is no ban by Gulf states," one trader said.

Traders said some Gulf producers asked no questions about where products went, but others were very strict. "If you were caught delivering products from some Gulf states to Iran you might get your fingers burnt," an oil trader said.

Egypt expected to scrape through latest IMF requests, debt crisis

CAIRO (R) — Egypt is caught in a textbook squeeze between the need for austerity and fears of social unrest, but President Hosni Mubarak's government is set to scrape through a looming economic crisis.

Talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on a \$325-million credit package appear deadlocked over fund demands that Cairo speeds up the pace of economic reform.

And time is running out for Egypt to hammer out \$1.2 billion in stalled debt reschedulings with seven Western nations including Japan and Britain before a June 30 deadline.

But Western diplomats believe Cairo, saddled with \$43 billion of foreign debt, will probably wrest concessions from the IMF, relying heavily on the knowledge Western nations will tread carefully to avoid destabilising a key Middle East ally.

"There must be doubts whether the technical conditions of the IMF deal can be met," one embassy economist said. "But that does not mean the entire relationship has broken down. There may be scope for trying to patch together another agreement."

Another said: "The fund is much more supple with a country like this which has vital strategic importance — though it is pressing the Egyptians to get their economy in order."

Economists in Cairo say the 18-month IMF accord signed in May 1987 can best be described

as moribund. A new IMF mission to Egypt is set for May 21, monetary sources in Washington said. Egypt has responded to some fund demands, streamlining its foreign exchange system and gradually raising the subsidised prices of electricity, telephone calls, fuel and other services.

But the IMF wants swifter, broader reforms and has withheld payments of credits totalling more than \$150 million.

That in turn threatens to block a move to approach the Paris Club which groups Western creditor nations, to reschedule a second batch of debt falling due between July 1 and the end of 1989.

Exchange rate reform
A main sticking point with the IMF remains exchange rate reform, with the fund urging Mubarak's government to abolish an artificial rate of 0.70 pounds to the dollar used to finance imports of vital foods such as wheat, flour and sugar.

That rate is three times below official market rates of about 2.25 pounds to the dollar, but its abolition would cause prices to soar and remove what is a heavy hidden subsidy.

Gradual process
Prime Minister Atef Sedki underlined Cairo's position last week when he said the IMF wanted immediate reforms while Egypt sought to implement them gradually.

He said he was not against the

principle of abolishing the 0.70 rate — but progressively.

In remarks published in the *Journal d'Egypte*, Sedki said: "We have asked to proceed in steps over 10 years. We're still negotiating the point..."

He summed up a cabinet balancing act, saying: "Our economic progress will be slow because we want everything at once — to safeguard democratic liberties and ensure greater social justice while also waging the main battle, of development."

Diplomats say other tricky points of negotiation before the IMF package can be reactivated or new targets set include a fund demand to raise energy prices at least fourfold to nearer world levels, increase interest rates and cut the budget deficit.

One West European diplomat predicted the IMF may be ready to endorse new Egyptian economic measures within three months provided it can reach agreement with Paris Club creditors.

Political instability
"On the one hand, you have the purely economic viewpoint that Egypt has not fulfilled the fund's conditions," he said.

"Then you have the politics of the matter. Both sides know that Western countries have interest in not being too severe with Egypt," he added.

Egypt relies heavily on U.S. and West European fears of instability in its continual search for economic support.

China announces food subsidies for urban residents

PEKING (R) — China announced food subsidies for most of its 200 million city dwellers Thursday but warned at the same time that food prices were likely to continue rising.

The official New China News Agency said state employees, students in higher education and retired people would receive up to 10 yuan (\$2.7) monthly, starting in May, to buy what it called "non-staple foods."

Ten yuan is more than 12 per cent of the average monthly wage of many state workers.

Announcing "another major development," however, the agency said the state would no longer set the sale price of vegetables, eggs, pork and sugar — all defined as "non-staple" foods.

The agency did not give precise details but implied that market forces and local governments would control the prices of these foods, leading to further rises.

At present, the four items are heavily subsidised by the state.

China's newly appointed premier Li Peng has pinpointed inflation as the country's biggest problem and the official media have voiced many complaints from city people whose already meagre standard of living has been eroded by price increases.

Inflation is running at an average of an annual 11 per cent this year but the cost of food is going up even faster. Prices of vegetables in Peking rose by 40 per cent last year.

CBJ official clarifies view on interest rates

AMMAN (J.T.) — In a report on the seminar on interest rate liberalisation published Thursday, the Jordan Times misreported statements made by Dr. Umayya Touqan, head of research and studies department at the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ).

In fact, the misreporting resulted from confusing Dr. Touqan's statements with those made by another of the over a dozen speakers on the subject of interest rates liberalisation.

The following is the correct summary of Dr. Touqan's statements. The Jordan Times regrets this inadvertent error and hopes the summary below sets the record straight.

CBJ's Touqan pointed out that deregulation in the U.S. seems to have resulted from the competitive and innovative behaviour of the U.S. commercial banking system.

In contrast, he said, the debate

in Jordan on liberalisation seems to be led by the central bank. He emphasised that the primary concern of the CBJ as the deputy governor of the bank stated in his opening remarks is to maintain sound banking and financial systems in Jordan.

He said that according to studies on Jordan's financial system conducted at the CBJ, "higher interest rates in the Kingdom may not have an appreciable impact on savings but may have some impact on the exchange rate of the Jordan dinar."

Touqan said that the existing theoretical knowledge on the impact of interest rate liberalisation on the level of economic activity and bank profitability does not give unambiguous guidance. Some indication of the direction if not the magnitude of the impact, according to Touqan, can be inferred only from empirical evidence.

South and North Yemen to start joint oil exploration

ADEN (R) — South and North Yemen have agreed on a joint exploration for oil in their border region following a South Yemeni leader's visit to Sanaa, newspapers reported Thursday.

Ali Salem Al Baldi, secretary-general of the ruling Marxist Socialist Party, returned home Wednesday after signing agreements with North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh aimed at uniting the states.

Oil in commercial quantities was discovered in both Yemens in recent years. North Yemen's oilfields at Ma'rib are only 200 kilometres away from the south's Shabwa fields.

Aden newspapers, reporting details of the agreement, said the two had agreed to leave a 2,200 square kilometres area between each other's oilfields free of military installations.

It said a joint committee would mark the border and oil ministers from both countries would make arrangements for the exploration.

something. The question is how aggressive they will be," said Steve Slifer, an economist with Shearson Hutton Lehman Inc. in New York.

A lot rides this election year on how Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan will answer that question.

Economists say Greenspan needs to raise short-term interest rates high enough to allay the bond markets' fear of inflation and thus halt the recent rise in long-term interest rates, which are crucial for business investment and housing.

Thirty-year bond yields have risen steadily in recent weeks and are now around 9.1 per cent, the year's high.

But if Greenspan clamped down on credit too drastically, bank lending rates would rise, consumer spending would be squeezed and the economy, now in its 66th consecutive month of growth, could be headed for a tumble by November's election.

Greenspan is expected to initially raise the important Fed funds rate, the rate on overnight bank loans, to seven per cent or

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES		
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.		
One Sterling	1.8660/70	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.2320/30	Canadian dollar
	1.6785/90	Deutschmarks
	1.8826/31	Dutch guilders
	1.3995/05	Swiss francs
	35.10/15	Belgian francs
	5.7070/7120	French francs
	1252/1253	Italian lire
	124.60/70	Japanese yen
	5.8900/50	Swedish crowns
	6.1610/60	Norwegian crowns
	6.4760/4810	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	444.50/445.00	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS	
SYDNEY — Shares staged a mild recovery but closed easier in most sectors with brokers saying the market had outperformed earlier expectations. The All Ordinaries index fell 1.8 points to 1,422.5.	
TOKYO — The market ended down following Wall Street's overnight decline and in the absence of fresh positive factors. The Nikkei index fell 135.33 points, or 0.49 per cent, to 27,534.39.	
HONG KONG — Shares prices finished a volatile session marginally lower with buying interest not sustained. The Hang Seng index lost 6.18 points to close at 2,571.74.	
SINGAPORE — The market closed narrowly mixed after speculative buying alternated with bouts of profit-taking. The Straits Times industrial index rose 0.28 to 976.06.	
BOMBAY — Prices rallied strongly in brisk trading for the new two-week account, bolstered by the authorities' decision to double the permitted ceiling on carry-forwards business. Tata Steel rose 8.75 rupees to 707.5.	
FRANKFURT — Prices closed little changed from Thursday after early weakness prompted bargain-hunting. The Commerzbank index, calculated at mid-session, fell 10 to 1,343.2.	
ZURICH — The exchange closed little changed on moderate volume, with investors reluctant to take fresh positions before U.S. job figures. The Swiss index fell 2.9 to 809.2.	
PARIS — Prices ended firmer in moderately active trading as foreign buying reversed the falls of most of the day.	

Fed faces dilemma on interest rates

WASHINGTON (R) — The Federal Reserve (Fed) could soon face a dilemma: Raise interest rates while financial markets are still jittery, or hold back and risk its reputation as an inflation-fighter, economists and Fed officials said Thursday.

After a string of statistics showing a surprisingly strong economy, pressure is mounting on Wall Street and among some Fed officials for the central bank to make a pre-emptive strike against the inflation if Friday's employment report for April shows a further tightening in the labour market.

American businesses have already hired a million workers this year, reducing the jobless rate to a nine-year low of 5.6 per cent, and economists estimate that another 250,000 jobs were created last month.

Most economists assume that, barring an exceptionally weak employment report, the Fed will tighten its grip on credit to prevent the economy from overheating.

"It's inevitable that they will do something. The question is how aggressive they will be," said Steve Slifer, an economist with Shearson Hutton Lehman Inc. in New York.

so from the current range of 6 1/2 to 6 3/4.

But some Fed staffers say more urgent steps are needed, including a possible increase in the six per cent discount rate, the fee the Fed charges banks for emergency loans.

The Fed raised the Fed funds rate by about a quarter point in March, but the move was far too small to cool the economy, one official said.

Although a discount rate increase is unlikely just yet, the very fact that it is being discussed underscores the central bank's concern about the inflation, officials said.

Chief White House economist and sometime Fed critic Beryl Sprinkel was asked by reporters Wednesday how he would react to a discount rate increase.

Far from dismissing the idea, Sprinkel said it would not unduly bother him as long as the Fed kept the money supply growing at a moderate pace.

Expectations of tighter monetary policy have been fuelled by fighting talk recently from Fed officials, who insisted that current inflation of 3 1/2 to four per cent is too high.

Officials do not fear runaway inflation, but they worry that prices will creep up insidiously

and get built into the economy's wage and cost structure. By that time, it would be too late to get the inflation genie back in the bottle.

With many industries running flat out to meet booming export orders as well as a rebound in domestic consumer spending since October's stock market crash, evidence is piling up that firms are using the opportunity to raise prices.

"It would tend to make Greenspan uneasy," said David Jones of Aubrey G. Langston.



Alan Greenspan

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"It would tend to make Greenspan uneasy," said David Jones of Aubrey G. Langston.

India signs contract for U.S. supercomputer

NEW DELHI (R) — India Thursday formally signed a contract to buy an advanced U.S.-made supercomputer to improve monsoon research and forecast-

ing, a government statement said. The statement said the contract signed in the Indian capital with Cray Research Inc. of Minneapolis, Minnesota would allow India to buy an XMP-14 supercomputer.

The U.S. government signed an agreement with India in October 1987 providing for the purchase of the supercomputer. The agreement followed two years of negotiations. The sale would make India, whose chief arms supplier is the Soviet Union, the first country not a U.S. ally to receive such sophisticated supercomputer technology.

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4. Last date for purchase of documents is May 14th 1988.
5. Pre-tender meeting shall be held at the Ministry of Public Works on Thursday May 12, 1988.
6. Tenders shall be submitted before 1:30 afternoon on Saturday May 28, 1988 at the Government Tenders Directorate in Amman.

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Director, Government Tenders Directorate

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- 2- Tender No. 55/88 Middle Water General Contract
- 3- Tender No. 61/88 Amman Water General Contract
- 4- Tender No. 62/88 South Water General Contract

Tender documents are obtainable against the payment of a non-refundable sum of JD 150 each from the Tenders Department at the Water Authority main office, Amman. Bids are due at the Government Tenders Directorate/Ministry of Public Works and Housing not later than 1330 hours Jordan local time on Wednesday, 8/6/1988.

Chairman, Central Tenders Committee
Director, Government Tenders Directorate

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A close play at first base, but the NECC runner made it safely to base.



Action all around, as Ablyah fielders prepare to tag out a determined base runner at second.



A quiet moment in the outfield for a Danish Dairy youngster.



A Tom and Jerry batter takes the first swings of his career.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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THAT LITTLE EXTRA

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NORTH
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♥ A
♦ 9532
♣ A Q 753
WEST
♠ K 10 8
♥ A 3 9 5
♦ Q J 9 8 5 4 3 2
♣ 10 6 3 2
SOUTH
♠ A Q 6 4 3
♥ K 7 4
♦ A K 6
♣ K 6

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 NT Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Queen of ♠.
Just because a line of play has a high probability doesn't mean that it must succeed. Conversely, long shots do come to once in a while, and you should consider that possibility.

South's jump to three on trump showed a hand stronger than an original one on trump opening bid. Despite his six-card suit, North had nothing to add to the auction.

After West's natural lead of the top of his broken sequence was won in dummy, declarer was de-

lighted with his prospects. While his only entry to the clubs had been removed at trick one, he had a better than 73 percent chance of bringing in the suit (all 3-2 breaks plus the possibility of a singleton jack in either defender's hand). And if clubs did not behave, he could always fall back on the spade finesse. So he gaily led a club to the king and continued with another club, only to find that, when West showed out and the spade finesse failed, the contract was irrevocably lost.

Declarer missed an additional chance for his contract. Have you spotted it?

If declarer can develop three tricks from the diamond suit, he has nine regardless of what happens in clubs and spades. That can be managed if diamonds break 3-3, or if East started with two of the three missing honors in the suit, unguarded.

At trick two declarer should have led a diamond to the king and continued with the ace. As the cards lie, the contract is now assured. Declarer simply continues with the suit, going to win the table's nine if West follows low to the third lead. That would have brought in the contract for a substantial profit.

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, MAY 7, 1988

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You may feel a bit flustered by too many things happening at one time today, so step back and get a breath before attempting any major projects. Being around good friends tonight will improve your mood.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Don't get involved in a hair-brained scheme orchestrated by a new acquaintance. Don't allow anyone to make you lose your temper.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Don't make any radical changes until you have analyzed all the consequences. Public matters should be handled during the evening.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) It is very important that you keep a promise you have made, even if it seems rather boring. Be patient with your mate this evening.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) If you allow a co-worker to get your dander up, you will be in a bad mood all day. Be sure to obey all regulations that apply to you.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) You may be tempted to start an argument at work, but doing so would ruin your reputation. Pay particular attention to the state of your health.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Postpone an entertainment today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Avoid being sarcastic to a business partner this morning. Get together with friends tonight, but be sure to drive with the utmost care.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Think twice, then three times, before spending a lot of money today. This would be a good night to entertain a group of friends.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Be certain of the facts and figures before you follow the advice of an expert. Enjoy a favorite hobby with a friend this evening.

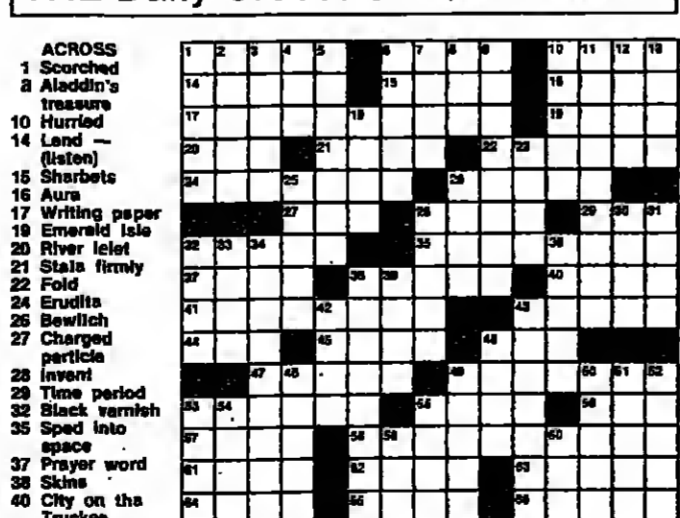
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Don't allow a secret worry to prevent you from keeping a promise you have made. If your property needs repairs, make them now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) A new acquaintance could waste much of your valuable time if you allow it. Go out on the town with your friends this evening.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) This might be a nice time to do some sightseeing with your mate, but be sure to take care of all your business responsibilities first.

THE Daily Crossword

by Martha J. De Witt



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. Vile at Versailles
2. Ruffed
3. Maple genus
4. Debussy's "La" —
5. Media
6. Describing some hostility
7. Certain variable
8. Sale students
9. Kill
10. Foul-smelling
11. Laughing
12. Not cordial
13. Crawl
14. Landlord's concern
15. Pottery
16. Preserves
17. A to a frenzy
18. Boundary
19. Poetry muse
20. City on the Pascale
21. Concals
22. Stars
23. Small servings
24. Sp. painter
25. By oneself
26. Peary —
27. Chicago's airport
28. Short
29. More cunning
30. Combustible matter
31. Begudge
32. Opera voice
33. Bow for one
34. Almond

Argentina beats Israel

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Argentina defeated Israel 2-0 in second-round action of the South American Junior's Soccer Championship in a match marred by about 20 spectators who waved a banner with a swastika and chanted anti-Semitic slogans.

Several youths also threw stones and a bottle at a line judge and tossed a projectile toward the Israeli bench but there were no arrests. No one was injured and play resumed 15 minutes later Wednesday night at Velez Sarsfield stadium without further incident.

Argentina with its win tops the Group A standings and Brazil leads Group B in regional elimination play that continues through May 25. Participants also include teams from Paraguay, Chile, Peru, Venezuela, Uruguay, Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia and Israel.

Israel was included in this region of the World Junior's soccer tournament by the International Soccer Federation (FIFA) following objections by Arab countries.

The World Junior's Soccer Championship will be held in January in Saudi Arabia.

Welsh to fight against foreign players' restrictions

CARDIFF, Wales (AP) — Welsh soccer officials said Thursday they would fight new rules restricting the number of foreign players allowed on a club for European Cup tournaments.

Alan Evans, the Welsh Football Association secretary, said he would take up the controversial ruling at the UEFA congress in Munich next month.

"I think it will be a disaster for Welsh clubs and it will do the national team no good either," Evans said. "We intend to ask UEFA to look at this again."

The executive board of UEFA, European soccer's governing body, ruled this week that clubs would be allowed only four foreigners in the Champions Cup, Cupwinners Cup and UEFA Cup tournaments beginning in 1991.

English, Scottish, Irish and Welsh players would be regarded as foreigners if they play for a club outside their own nation, UEFA said.

That will seriously affect Welsh clubs who qualify for the Cupwinners Cup by virtue of winning the Welsh Cup. Welsh teams rely heavily on players from the other home countries.

"This is going to hit our clubs far more heavily than Scotland or Ireland," Evans said. "Our clubs play in the (English) Football League and are used to trading with English players."

Juventus seeks to stop Milan's rally on Italian League title

By Reuters

JUVENTUS, who with their Welsh forward Ian Rush striking form are battling to stay in European soccer after 25 uninterrupted seasons, could be the team to arrest AC Milan's march on the Italian League title Sunday.

Milan, inspired by an outstanding Ruud Gullit, snatched the league lead from Diego Maradona's champions Napoli for the first time this season with a scintillating 3-2 victory in Naples last week.

The win put them one point ahead of Napoli, whose misfortunes have mounted with an injury to Maradona ahead of their game at Fiorentina. Milan, with home advantage Sunday, will definitely be without their captain Franco Baresi, who is suspended.

Juventus have summoned a late rally from a highly troubled season and now have their sights set firmly on a UEFA Cup place in Europe next year. They are sixth in the league, equal on 30 points with Internazionale.

Rush is finally showing something of the finishing power that made him such a force with England's Liverpool. He has scored three goals in the last four league matches and is in the mood to erase the memory of two bad misses when Juventus lost 1-0 to Milan at home.

"They were the most incredible mistakes I've made since I started playing in Italy. But now we're hoping for revenge," Rush said. Napoli travel away to ninth-placed Fiorentina desperate to win but with the nightmare of

defeat to Milan heightened by a thigh muscle injury to Maradona which the club doctor says is almost certain to keep him out of the match.

The last day of the season, May 15, could well decide the title race with Napoli at home to Sampdoria, currently fourth, and Milan away to relegation-threatened Como.

In France, league leaders Monaco, poised to take their first title in six years, travel to ninth-placed Nantes in their search for the last few points needed to confirm their crown.

Five points clear of Bordeaux with five games left, Monaco require six more to be sure of winning the league.

Their success this season has been founded to a large extent on the influence of English imports Glenn Hoddle and Mark Hateley but the partnership may break up before next season.

Monaco have confirmed they will consider a bid from Sampdoria for striker Hateley.

Most of the other major league title races in Europe have been settled.

With Werder Bremen first division champions in West Germany with three games still to go, interest now focuses on who will take second place.

Last year's champions Bayern Munich have occupied second place for much of the current season and now have 43 points, just one ahead of third-placed Cologne.

Bayern play Bayer Uerdingen Saturday while Cologne face Werder Bremen, who clinched the title Tuesday night with a 70th-minute goal by Karl-Heinz Riedle against Eintracht Frankfurt.

Spain's Espanol, a club "chosen for glory" according to one Spanish newspaper after their 3-0 win over Bayer Leverkusen in the first leg of the UEFA Cup final Wednesday night, have a home encounter at the weekend against bottom-placed Sabadell.

Even a win will leave Espanol well down the table. They currently stand sixth from bottom 26 points below champions Real Madrid, a position blamed partly by coach Javier Clemente on the rigours of the UEFA Cup.

UEFA Cup places are at stake this weekend, with third-placed Atletico Madrid and fourth-placed Athletic Bilbao, equal on 43 points, needing just one more point from three remaining league games to be sure of a place in the competition.

Atletico are away to Valencia, where they have not won for four seasons, while Athletic are at home to Cadiz, who have never won in Bilbao.

Champions Real Madrid, at home to Real Murcia, will be without goalkeeper Francisco Bufo suspended for a match having been shown four yellow cards.

Edberg, Gomez reach Champions' 3rd round

NEW YORK (R) — Top-seed Stefan Edberg of Sweden has had to work much too hard to reach the third round of the \$677,500-dollar tournament of Champions, while second-seed Andre Gomez continued to coast.

Gomez, the defending champion from Ecuador, had both his baseline and net games working Wednesday, as he dominated Horacio de la Pena of Argentina 6-2, 6-1 in a 55-minute battle of court specialists.

Gomez, who said he enjoys playing on the Forest Hills clay courts — former home of the U.S. Open — masterfully handled the Argentine's big topspin groundstrokes.

"It's probably the first time this year I'm happy with my overall

game," said Gomez. Edberg, expected to easily advance, struggled for the second consecutive day.

On Tuesday a qualifier nearly beat him, and Wednesday American Marcel Freeman, who failed to qualify for the tournament but became a last-minute substitute, threatened the world number three before Edberg prevailed 7-6, 7-5.

Two seeds fell in second round action Wednesday. American Jimmy Brown ousted 10th seeded countryman Eliot Teltscher 6-2, 6-1, and Spain's Alberto Tomba eliminated 14th-seeded Kelly Evernden of New Zealand 7-6, 6-1.

Two first-round upset winners

continued to advance. Uruguay's Diego Perez, who stunned fourth-seed John McEnroe, beat West Germany's Damiir Keretic in straight sets and Israel's Gilad Bloom, who Monday downed third seeded Argentine Martin Jaite, rallied from a set down to beat American Richey Reneberg.

Sixth seeded Swede Mikael Pernfors took three sets to beat American Bill Scanlon and 15th-seed Milan Sejber of Czechoslovakia took three sets to beat American Sammy Giammalva.

On Tuesday, Edberg barely won his first-round match with American qualifier John Ross. He lost a first set tiebreak and had to win a second set tiebreak to force a third set.

Court dismisses charges against IAAF in Budd case

LONDON (AP) — A private suit accusing track's worldwide governing body of blackmailing British authorities over Zola Budd's eligibility has been dismissed by a London court.

Magistrate Jeremy Connor ruled Thursday that there were no reasonable grounds to issue a summons against the International Amateur Athletics Federation

(IAAF) sought by Norris McWhirter, a former sprinter and the founder of the Guinness Book of World Records.

McWhirter, chairman of the Freedom Association, a right-wing pressure group, said he would consider appealing Connor's decision.

"I took this action because of the unwarranted threats and

menaces, with the intent to cause loss," McWhirter said. "Every citizen has the right to suppress crime which is being committed."

He brought the action after the IAAF told the British Amateur Athletics Board (BAAB) to either suspend the South African-born Budd for at least a year for violating the spirit of anti-apartheid rules or face penalties itself.

THE BETTER HALF.

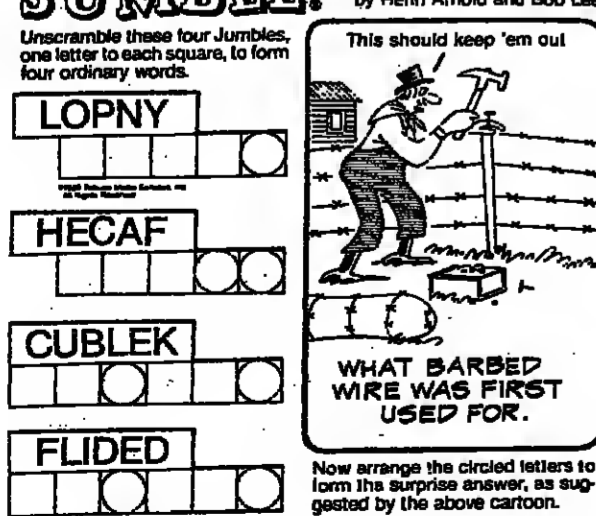
By Harris



"Lettuce is too expensive this week, so I'm making my salad out of ice cream, fudge and whipped cream."

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

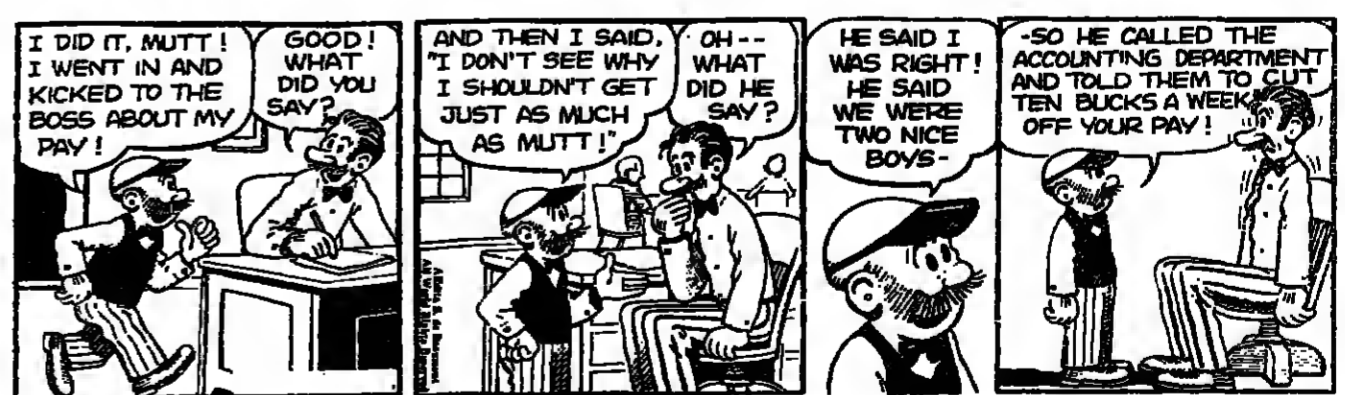


Print answer here:
(Answers tomorrow)
Yesterday's Jumbles: HEAVY JOLLY NESTLE BEGONE
Answer: "What kind of an environment did he try to establish for his family? — A 'STABLE' ONE."

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Death toll in hostage rescue rises to 21;
troops on alert after Kanaks vow revenge

Tension hits new peak in New Caledonia

NOUMEA (Agencies) — The military went on alert as the death toll from a French military assault to rescue 23 hostages held in a secluded cave in this Pacific territory rose to 21, officials announced Friday.

France's minister for overseas territories, Bernard Pons, said 7,000 army and gendarmes personnel were placed on "absolute alert" following the rescue mission Thursday that freed hostages held by Melanesian separatists. Gendarmes are police under military command.

The situation appeared calm, but the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS), the main separatist group, called for a 24-hour mobilisation Saturday to protest the attack on Ouvea island to the Loyalty Islands northwest of Noumea, the capital.

Seventeen people, 15 separatists and two members of the assault team, were initially re-

ported killed in the assault.

The gendarmes said Friday the bodies of three more Melanesians were found around the cave and the presumed chief of the captors, Alphonse Dianou, had died of wounds, for a total of 21 fatalities. Five others were injured.

The FLNKS statement said the death toll showed that the attack was "premeditated butchery."

About 500 Kanaks gathered in a poor suburb outside Noumea Friday to express solidarity with the rebels.

The meeting took place after the FLNKS said the killed were martyrs and threatened all-out war in retaliation.

Two French commandos were

also killed during the seven-hour battle Thursday.

Organisers of the protest meeting called for another rally Friday and warned that they might march into Noumea "to protest against France's colonial war."

"The French government has taken the initiative," separatist Raphael Mapou told reporters at the ramshackle FLNKS headquarters. "Nineteen deaths will not slow us down."

A separatist trade union said it was appealing to its 2,000 members, mainly dockers and health and air transport workers, to stage a 24-hour strike Friday.

FLNKS leaders said they would call on their people to stay at home and bring trade to a standstill.

FLNKS leaders called on their supporters Thursday to "take up the gauntlet against colonialism because the hour to fight has come."

Najibullah: No military solution in Afghanistan

NEW DELHI (R) — Afghan President Najibullah declared Friday that a military solution to the Afghan war was futile but warned the Mujahedeen movement who continued to fight that they would be dealt a severe blow.

He told reporters at the end of a three-day visit to India that government forces had reduced their operations in the country, convinced there could be no military victory.

"We are reducing these operations and resorting to peaceful means because our life experience has proved the futility of resort to military solution," he told a news conference. "By peaceful means you can get quicker and better peace."

He was hopeful rebels who have been fighting the Soviet-backed Afghan government in Kabul for nine years would also recognise the futility of the military option.

But if the Mujahedeen continued to fight, he said, "then the forces of the Republic of Afghanistan are fully prepared to deal them heavy and severe blows."

Under the Geneva accord signed last month, the Soviet Union is to begin withdrawing its estimated 115,000 troops deployed in Afghanistan from May 15.

Some Western analysts have predicted that once the Soviet troops leave, Najibullah's People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan will fall.

The president told reporters that by rejecting his offers of peace talks, the Mujahedeen were isolating themselves and committing political suicide.

However, he hoped moderate rebels would join the peace process.

"We are strongly hopeful that we could include with a sense of responsibility and also a sense of reasonableness those moderate groups who in a realistic way are for peace," he said.

Najibullah paid tribute to India's role in the peace process. Relations between the two countries had reached a turning point, he said, and he had been influenced by the views of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

India has been trying in the past few months to carve itself a role in the Afghan political process.

Both Soviet and U.S. officials were careful to keep New Delhi briefed in the months up to the U.N.-brokered agreement in Geneva.

Indian Minister of State for External Affairs K. Natwar Singh met Afghan King Zahir Shah in Rome in February to hear his views on a settlement.

Polish police besiege dock strikers

GDANSK (AP) — Workers at the strikebound Lenin shipyard in Gdansk said Friday they expect an assault by police who have surrounded the facility, where the outlawed Solidarity trade union was born.

Meanwhile, workers at a huge southern steel mill said a raid by riot troops Thursday did not end their strike.

Poland's Roman Catholic Church criticised the police raid and said similar action apparently was planned against the shipyard workers in Gdansk, a Baltic port city.

State-run media estimated that about 800 workers remained inside the shipyard Friday morning, and said the shipyard director warned them to leave or he would resort to "other means." The ultimatum was broadcast over loudspeakers at the yard overnight.

"The atmosphere there is bad. It's very tense. You can see they are all under great stress," said on Pole who emerged from the shipyard Friday after spending the night. He said about 2,000 strikers were inside.

The Communist Party daily Trybuna Ludu published a lengthy commentary that criticised strike leaders but said authorities should show patience because "the political adventurers again are hiding behind the workers' backs."

Polish radio said the Gdansk prosecutor's office has started an investigation of strike leaders.

Hundreds of police armed with clubs and sidearms blocked off the area around the shipyard and surrounded the facility, but police presence was smaller than Thursday.

Throughout the night, police

convoys moved silently through the city with lights flashing in a show of force.

A Polish dissident said the government may be trying to starve out the Gdansk strikers. The police blockade has prevented supporters from bringing the strikers supplies.

"It seems they are going to use a different scenario than in Nowa Huta," said dissident Adam Michnik. "They probably want to take the shipyard by hunger."

Solidarity leader Lech Walesa remained inside the shipyard, the birthplace of the Soviet bloc's first independent trade union.

Walesa led a strike at the shipyard in 1980 that provoked martial law and the banning of Solidarity in 1981. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1983. He has vowed to be the "last to leave" the yard in the current strike.

Norwegian heavy water disappears

OSLO (AP) — The government said 15 tons of Norwegian "heavy water," which can be used in nuclear reactors and in making nuclear weapons, was illegally diverted in 1983 to an unknown destination.

The Foreign Ministry said Wednesday that its investigation had confirmed media reports that the shipment, intended for a West German firm, did not reach its licensed destination of Frankfurt.

The Oslo newspaper Verdens Gang reported April 21 that the heavy water was flown on a Libyian-registered West African airlines plane via Basel, Switzerland, to Dubai, then probably to a nuclear reactor in Bombay, India.

Norway does not allow the

export of heavy water to countries that have not signed the international Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, including India.

The ministry said it had so far determined only that the heavy water was sent by air freight to Basel.

"The prosecuting authority will be requested to start investigations in Norway. Via diplomatic channels West Germany will be asked to do the same in order to reveal possible punishable offenses," the ministry said.

It said the heavy water was sold by Norsk Hydro, Norway's only producer of heavy water, to the West German firm Rohstoff Einfuhr of Duesseeldorf. The ministry said the firm had stated that the heavy water was for scientific use in West Germany.

"Norsk Hydro and Norwegian authorities may have been tricked by Rohstoff Einfuhr, a company by Alfred Hempel; a former World War II Wehrmacht officer," the Verdens Gang report said.

It quoted spokesman Helmut Swien of Alfred Hempel of Duesseeldorf, the parent company of Rohstoff Einfuhr, as saying: "You must understand that I cannot tell you who our customers are because of business reasons."

Heavy water, or deuterium oxide, is used as a coolant in some nuclear reactors, but it can also be used to produce plutonium for use in nuclear arms. India has several nuclear reactors that use heavy water.

Experts group urges superpowers to end intervention in regional conflicts

WASHINGTON (R) — A group of U.S. and Soviet experts has proposed that the superpowers halt military intervention in regional conflicts.

The experts acknowledged Thursday this would "demand a new standard of conduct, a dramatic shift in perceptual philosophy" and a reversal of long-held doctrine in Moscow and Washington.

But they argued "stable coexistence requires both the U.S. and the USSR to accept the outcomes of regional conflicts without attempting to impose their own preferred political or ideological solution by military means."

Demonstrating the difficulties in reaching such an agreement, however, the two sides disagreed at a press conference over whether 40,000 Cubans in Angola were Soviet proxy forces.

The Americans said yes, the Soviet officials said no.

The proposal to end Third World military intervention was reached as part of a three-year, \$500,000 study by the U.S.-Canada Institute of the Soviet Academy of Sciences and the private American Committee on U.S.-Soviet Relations.

In a report, they described the project as "the first joint U.S.-Soviet effort to examine the requirements of our mutual survival and to present recommendations for joint action."

They concluded the two governments should agree not to intervene in the Third World with direct military force, not to introduce proxy military forces or covert paramilitary forces, not to transfer a specified list of sophisticated weapons, and to limit military advisers.

"What we are talking about essentially is changing our form of competition" from military conflict to political and economic spheres, said Arthur Macy Cox, a

former State Department and Central Intelligence Agency official who headed the American delegation.

Georgi Arbatov, head of the Soviet delegation and an adviser to Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev, said of the report: "In my opinion, it could be an agenda for very serious dialogue and very serious decision."

History has proven "the Third World will be neither yours nor ours," he said.

The conclusions do not coincide completely with current Soviet policies but come close in many ways to what has been proposed, he added.

The U.S. delegation, which included former Under-Secretary of State William Ball and former U.S. intelligence chief William Colby, said the White House and State Department had been briefed on their activities.

For more than 25 years the Soviet Union has asserted its intention to support national liberation forces throughout the Third World, including Ethiopia, Kampuchea and Afghanistan.

The United States has long claimed the right to block the emergence of Marxist-Leninist regimes. Under President Reagan it has gone even further, providing military aid to anti-communist rebels seeking to overthrow leftist governments in Nicaragua, Angola and Afghanistan.

The U.S.-Soviet experts said two major military actions in particular — the Soviet involvement in Afghanistan and U.S. involvement in Vietnam — had been "gross failures."

"We believe that military intervention by the superpowers in regional conflicts has reached a dangerous dead end and should be terminated by mutual agreement," the report said.



Kanak separatists have isolated large areas of the New Caledonian capital of Noumea

French removal of secret agent from Pacific atoll infuriates New Zealand

WELLINGTON (R) — Rainbow Warrior saboteur Dominique Prieur was released from detention on a French island in the South Pacific and headed for home Friday without the consent of an angry New Zealand.

His sudden departure from Hao atoll infuriated the nation and Prime Minister David Lange made a cryptic comment to reporters: "When the record of this appears, certain matters will be disclosed. It's not profitable to go into them at the moment."

The prime minister will make no further comment until after the French presidential election Sunday.

Prieur and fellow-agent Alois Mafart received 10-year prison terms after pleading guilty to sabotage and manslaughter after

the sinking of the flagship of the Greenpeace environmental organization at Auckland in 1985. One crewman was killed.

The ship was to have led a protest fleet to France's nuclear test zone.

Mafart was removed from Hao without New Zealand's consent in December after complaining of stomach pains. He and Prieur were supposed to spend at least another year there.

New Zealand media commentators said Prieur's return home was a further bid by Prime Minister Jacques Chirac to enhance his presidential prospects after he secured the release of three French hostages in Lebanon and 23 in New Caledonia.

Prieur and Mafart are both regarded as heroes in France.

Lange said he had been told through "normal diplomatic channels" at 9:40 a.m. Friday (2140 GMT Thursday) that Prieur would be returned to France "forthwith."

A Defence Ministry spokesman in Paris later said Prieur was on his way home.

"We can confirm that Captain Prieur is heading back to France at this moment," he said. He declined to confirm press reports she might be pregnant. Lange said in December she was "labouring under a misapprehension."

A Dutch Foreign Ministry official visited Hao in March on New Zealand's expense to check on her presence. New Zealand has never indicated that his report suggested she was pregnant.

The agents, said by France to have acted under government orders, were transferred to Hao the following year under an agreement arranged by United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Lange declined to say if France had given any justification for removing Prieur from the atoll. He said New Zealand would take up the issue with the French after Sunday's election.

Greenpeace spokesman Peter Whitehouse linked Prieur's release to the freeing of the hostages in Lebanon and New Caledonia.

"It will be very interesting if Chirac is claiming credit for her return," he said.

3 major disasters hit U.S. in 24 hours

LOS ANGELES (R) — Three spectacular fires within 24 hours killed three people and left hundreds injured on Thursday: a "towering inferno" in Los Angeles, a blast that wrecked a Nevada rocket fuel plant and a refinery explosion near New Orleans.

The fire in Los Angeles' tallest building, the 62-story first Interstate Bancorp skyscraper, broke out Wednesday night only eight minutes after employees turned off the water to resume work on installing a sprinkler system.

In a scene reminiscent of the film "The Towering Inferno," rescue helicopters plucked eight people from the roof of the building while flames roared from windows into the night sky and broken glass rained down on the streets.

One man was killed and 40 other people were injured.

Fuel plant blasts
Ten hours earlier, three thunderous explosions destroyed a Henderson, Nevada, plant that made fuel for the U.S. space shuttle. A company official was killed, a handicapped worker was missing and 210 people were injured.

Reuter reporter Jeff Franks said the blasts ruptured a natural gas line at the plant, 30 kilometres south of Las Vegas, and the gas fed a fire that burned for many hours.

Refinery explosion
Early Thursday an explosion and fire at a Shell oil company refinery in Narco, Louisiana, killed one worker, left five workers missing and injured 21 people. The fire burned out of control for six hours, forcing the evacua-

tion of 2,800 residents of the town, 100 kilometres north of New Orleans.

Officials said they did not know what caused the fire but said it occurred in a cat cracker co-venter, which is used to separate different grades of fuel.

Los Angeles fire

The Los Angeles fire destroyed the 12th through 15th floors of the first Interstate Bancorp building. Company officials reported millions of dollars in damage.

The man who died was found in a service elevator on the 12th floor, where the blaze broke out. "The fire burned at about 2,000 degrees, turning water from the hoses into steam," said fire chief Donald Manning. "Going into the building was like walking into a furnace."

Manning said the damage would have been far less severe if the building had had a sprinkler system.

Under city law, only high-rise buildings built after 1974 must install such systems. The first interstate building was built in 1971.

The company was installing a sprinkler system and workers had turned off the water so they could resume work on the system when the fire broke out.

The Henderson, Nevada, plant, owned by the Pacific Engineering and Production Company of Nevada, made ammonia perchlorate, an oxidiser used in the fuel of the space shuttle's solid fuel boosters.

The U.S. Space Agency said the blast was not expected to delay the resumption of shuttle flights because enough fuel had already been manufactured.

Managua says contras violated truce

MANAGUA (AP) — The Sandinista government has charged that contra rebels based in Honduras used speedboats to attack a government military position, breaking a six-week-old ceasefire.

The Foreign Ministry also alleged Thursday that a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) operation based in San Jose, Costa Rica, was publishing false documents to tarnish the image of the Nicaraguan government.

The allegations came as 42 striking workers called an end to a 10-day fast in Managua after the government agreed to begin negotiations Monday over salary increases, union leaders said.

In its first bulletin since Sandinista and contra forces stopped

offensive military operations March 21, the Defence Ministry said two contra speedboats based at a Honduran naval base in the Gulf of Fonseca used machine-gun and rifle fire to attack a military position Wednesday "without obtaining results."

Sandinista troops retaliated by firing cannon at the boats, the ministry said. It provided no further details on the incident.

Government and contra representatives signed a cease-fire pact March 23, and a 60-day truce began April 1. In two rounds of negotiations held in Managua, the two sides since have been unable to conclude a definitive cease-fire to the civil war.

Alejandro Bendaña, secretary-general of the Foreign Minis-

try, told a news conference Thursday the Interior Ministry had discovered a clandestine CIA documents centre in San Jose, the Costa Rican capital.

The Nicaraguan diplomat said at least eight false documents have surfaced recently. He said the papers sought to discredit the Sandinista government.

He said the United States was sponsoring the publishing operation in an effort "to prove negotiations have not produced results."

On Thursday afternoon, officials of the General Workers Confederation declared the 10-day hunger strike at federation headquarters in Managua a success.

U.S. immigration amnesty expected to cover two million

NEW YORK (AP) — The nation's 107 immigration offices closed their doors Thursday to a once-in-a-lifetime offer of amnesty for millions of illegal immigrants after processing tens of thousands on the final day of the yearlong programme.

Aliens who beat the midnight deadline exchanged hugs and kisses and waved American flags in Los Angeles. Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS) employees in Houston popped open champagne bottles as the final applicants walked out the door. In Chicago, workers waved a flag and hurled a balloon at midnight.

"Thank God, this is a blessing. We have come so far and from so much suffering," said Rosa Pineda, a Guatemalan who applied at a New Mexico office.

In Honolulu, commercial fisherman Sione Feiloaitau paraded with native dancers and immigration officials after becoming the last person in the

United States to apply before the deadline.

"No words can express my appreciation and my happiness at this time," said Feiloaitau, 42, who moved to Hawaii in 1979 from the South Pacific nation of Tonga. "This is something I have hoped for a long time."

"As they say, better late than never," said Mark Everson, an INS deputy commissioner from Washington who presented Feiloaitau with a tiny Statue of Liberty Replica.

As of Tuesday, 1.4 million people filed applications nationwide, and 475,000 people were seeking legal status under a separate programme for seasonal agricultural workers, the INS said. The deadline for that programme is Nov. 30. There were no figures available yet for Wednesday.

"At this time, it appears we will break two million" for the combined programmes, INS spokesman Greg Leo said in Washington D.C.

Most of the applications were received in the western United States, where 1.3 million people have applied for amnesty under the two government programmes. The region is comprised of California, Nevada, Arizona, Hawaii and Guam.

Illegal aliens who have lived in the United States continuously since before Jan. 1, 1982, were eligible for temporary residency and amnesty from deportation under the programme. They must apply for permanent residency with 18 months and can eventually apply for citizenship.

Rogelio Curriel, 23, of Jalisco, Mexico, was among the last of the more than 68,000 people to apply in Los Angeles Wednesday.

Asked why he waited so long, Curriel said, "I don't know, but I did."

Lucky few
The doors closed at the office in Hialeah, Florida, at two mi-

outes past midnight, but three minutes later, Manuel Pico, a Colombian, and his wife, Sandra, were allowed in.

"We were home, we saw the news, I told him let's go for it," said Mrs. Pico, out of breath. The couple ran red lights to get to the office on time, said Mrs. Pico, who is a U.S. citizen.

INS employees cheered as Rosa Lopez walked into the Houston centre at midnight. Ms. Lopez, 62, said she didn't file her application sooner because she didn't have enough money. She still only had \$40 in cash when she presented her application, but the INS granted her a 60-day extension to pay the remaining \$145.

In New York, applicants were allowed to enter the INS office up to an hour past the deadline, said James A. Jasey, deputy district director of legislation in the metropolitan area.

"I stopped the clock," Jasey said, smiling. "They're going

upstairs."

Carmen Siguenza, 28, of Ecuador, was not so lucky. She was in a bewildered group of six who were turned away shortly after midnight at an INS office in Chicago, where 9,299 illegal aliens registered Wednesday.

Now, she said, she might have to return to Ecuador, where her husband and two sons still live.

"I'm scared I can't work," she said.

But the guard at the office door told the group, "Sorry, you're too late. You had a whole year."



Grumpy grouse gives Swedish police headache

STOCKHOLM (R) — A grumpy male grouse attacked so many people in an eastern Swedish village that police were called in to move it, but the bird turned its temper on them and they beat it retreat. The police eventually threw a blanket over the bird, a capercaillie, a type of grouse, and drove it 10 kilometres from Sikkajalma to give its residents some peace. But it came back within three days and attacked anyone who went outdoors. Now game officials have been called in to move it far into the countryside. There, they hope, an abundance of capercaillie hens may blunt its anger.

Dispute flares over Ludovisi throne

ROME (R) — A controversy, raging among Italian academics about the authenticity of a supposed classical Greek masterpiece was fuelled Thursday when an American art dealer said an ultra-violet test had proved it was a modern fake. Jerome M. Eisenberg, an art dealer and historian, told the weekly L'Europeo magazine that he had personally carried out a test on the Ludovisi throne in the National Roman Museum in the early 1970s, using a portable ultra-violet machine. But Culture Minister Vincenzo Scotti and another expert immediately rejected the claim, saying such tests were unreliable because they did not take account of modern restoration on the marble surface of the throne.

'Perestroika' excludes permissiveness
MOSCOW (R) — The head of the Soviet state cinema authority has called on film directors to show restraint in depicting sex, saying permissiveness was not part of Kremlin reforms. Goskino Chairman Alexander Kamshalov wrote in the latest edition of the bi-monthly Sovetskii Ekran following the release of several mildly erotic films which he said had provoked complaints from the public. He said that films showing "intimate episodes" and drinking scenes threatened the aesthetic standards of the cinema and the moral health of viewers. "Permissiveness has nothing in common with 'perestroika' (Kremlin reforms) and can only compromise its ideas in the sphere of art," Kamshalov said in a letter to the magazine.

Japan's most expensive movie screened

PEKING (AP) — Several thousand Japanese and Chinese attended a special screening Thursday of "Dunhuang," an historical drama set in the deserts of northwest China that is believed to be the most expensive Japanese movie ever made. The joint Sino-Japanese production, filmed on location in the desert around the ancient Silk Road city of Dunhuang, cost approximately \$4.5 billion yuan (\$36 million), with the Japanese side paying most of the expenses. The film, depicting the adventures of a young scholar-soldier during the northern Song Dynasty (960-1127), is based on a 1959 novel by well-known Japanese writer Yasushi Inoue. Inoue attended the screening with Japan's international trade and industry minister, Hajime Tamura, and China's culture minister, Wang Meng.

Ban called for on ivory purchases

GENEVA (R) — The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Thursday called on governments to ban imports of a huge cache of ivory recently discovered in Burundi. The Swiss-based WWF, formerly the World Wildlife Fund, applauded a decision last week by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to forbid illegal ivory imports from Burundi, in Central Africa. "It is imperative that all nations join together in prohibiting the purchase of this contraband ivory by their citizens," WWF projects manager John Hanks said in a statement. "Only concerted action can crush the illegal middleman and save the elephant." Burundi, which has no elephants, used to be a major depot for illegal ivory trade and had directly contributed to the drastic decline in elephant populations in neighbouring countries. Last November it banned ivory imports, but three traders there still hold 16,437 elephant tusks weighing 87 tonnes brought in before November.